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# THE TIMES

No. 64,467

MONDAY OCTOBER 19 1992

45p

Ministers defy growing pits revolt

## Top Tories tell Major to back down or lose

By Jill Sherman  
Political  
Correspondent

SENIOR Conservative backbenchers will today tell John Major to back down over plans to close 31 pits or face defeat in the Commons on Wednesday.

Eleven Tory MPs have said they will vote against the government and with more intent on abstaining, leading backbenchers fear there is little chance of checking the revolt — even if billions of pounds are put into rescuing mining communities.

Michael Heseltine, president of the Board of Trade, will unveil his package of help this afternoon, but he remained adamant yesterday that he would not waver from his plans to make 30,000 miners redundant within six months. The cabinet has been summoned for a special meeting this morning to consider Mr Heseltine's statement to the Commons and the prime minister will then face his backbenchers at a Carlton Club lunch with the 1922 Committee executive.

The executive, which represents Tory backbench opinion, will tell Mr Major that he has little alternative but to revise his plans and instigate an immediate review of the closures. A senior member of the executive is among those to have declared their intention of voting with the opposition unless the government changed tack, and he claimed that several of his colleagues on the executive had said they would either abstain or vote against the government.

With 11 declared Tory rebels, Labour would win on Wednesday if all opposition MPs vote for its motion — which is expected to call for a moratorium and a review of the closure programme. Although this is unlikely — Ulster Unionists are expected to abstain — there would be a real danger of a government defeat if a dozen Tories abstained.

Two Sunday newspaper surveys suggested a heavy body of opposition to the closures among Tory backbenchers: the *Independent on Sunday* found 34 in favour of a moratorium and the *Sunday Times* found 44 against the closures. But senior cabinet ministers appeared to set themselves on a collision course with their backbenchers by refusing to countenance any change to the programme.

Mr Heseltine, backed by Douglas Hurd and the transport secretary John MacGregor, said there was no acceptable alternative.

Speaking on BBC television's *On the Record* programme, Mr Heseltine said

■ Michael Heseltine today unveils his last-ditch rescue plan for mining communities threatened by the imminent pit closures, but the government is still facing defeat in Wednesday's Commons vote

he accepted full responsibility for the decision and would do his best to help the party win on Wednesday. "You do not come into politics expecting an easy ride," he said. "I do not think there is a case for changing the recommendations that I have made. The case is unanswerable in economic terms. Socially the terms are as generous as we could reasonably offer and far more generous than for those three million people out of work have received in similar circumstances."

While giving few details about the package he will announce to the Commons this afternoon, he said that it would show that the government was giving considerable notice to what backbenchers were saying. "There is no

postponed or it should have been wrapped up differently."

Mr Heseltine prompted further cabinet tension by denying that Norman Lamont, the chancellor, or Gillian Shephard, the employment secretary, had not been kept fully informed about the changes. Mrs Shephard is said to be furious that she did not know details about the timing. "During the key decisions an employment minister was present," Mr Heseltine said. "While accepting that Mrs Shephard had not attended all these meetings he said: 'I don't believe the secretary of state did not know about the full scale of it.'"

Mr Heseltine conceded that David Hunt, the Welsh secretary, should have been told about the decision to close Point Ayr colliery. But he said there was no need for a full cabinet meeting as there was "no disagreement among colleagues" over the programme.

Besides Mr Heseltine's statement to the Commons today, the pits issue will also be raised in the Lords. Labour has tabled amendments to the Bill which paves the way to British Coal privatisation, halting the closures until they have had full parliamentary approval.

Robin Cook, the shadow trade secretary, claimed there was no economic case for the closure. "The coal would not be piling up at the pits if ministers had an energy strategy that got the coal into the power stations to keep miners in work and consumers in cheap electricity." The apparent contradictions between cabinet ministers about who had known about the decision underlined the "shambles" Mr Heseltine was in. "It looks as if this eccentric decision was taken by Heseltine on his own. One man must not be allowed to bounce Parliament into destroying the jobs of 32,000 men."

Gordon Brown, the shadow chancellor, said: "With the forecast of 200,000 job losses between now and Christmas, this new wave of redundancies makes it more imperative than ever that there is a halt to the Government's pit closure programme."

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simple way of achieving what is a very unpleasant decision. I have not got any alternative answers to the problem."

Mr Heseltine, who is expected to meet the trade and industry committee after his statement today, said the alternative was to allow 25m tonnes of coal to build up at pit heads which would never be used costing the government £40 a tonne. The same money could be used to build roads and hospitals, he said.

Mr Hurd put over the same message on London Weekend's *Walden* programme. He said: "It is simply not sensible to encourage people to believe that we can go on sensibly producing coal for which there is no market, for which there are no customers. 'People cannot have it all ways. They cannot press hard the prime minister and his colleagues for leadership, and then say it should have been

My lord leads the Barbour brigade into battle



Soapbox peer: Lord Neidpath addressing the protesting citizens of Cheltenham before taking to the streets yesterday

## Cheltenham goes on parade to back miners

By Joe Joseph

WHEN even Cheltenham begins to choke on its sherry at the fate of Britain's miners, John Major may wonder if it is not now time to roll up that political map of Britain: he might not need it again in this Parliament's lifetime.

Nearly 3,000 residents of a spa town better known for limestone mansions and literary festivals than for lashing Conservative governments, marched through the centre of Cheltenham yesterday to protest at the planned pit closures. Even Mansfield, in the heart of the Nottingham-

shire coalfield, mustered only 5,000 at its rally yesterday.

Life-long Cheltenham Tories have now joined Conservative MPs, church leaders and navy-blue Tory newspapers such as *The Sunday Telegraph* and *Daily Mail* in what only recently would have seemed an unlikely posse of Mr Major's critics. Lord Neidpath — a prominent socialite and Gloucestershire landowner whose uncle, Lord Charteris, is a personal friend of the Queen — marched at the head of a half-mile column of Tory councillors, Rotarians in green Barbours, ladies in blue

rinses. Socialist Workers in high dudgeon, pensioners, children and church leaders. Local police could not recall a bigger demonstration ever having disrupted Cheltenham.

"I hope the overwhelming support for this march in Cheltenham, which is not a coal-mining district by any means, demonstrates how strong the feeling must be up and down the country," Lord Neidpath told the crowd, before urging Britons to switch their lights on and off in unison to produce an innovative "protest blip" in power stations across the country. "The government

has grossly underestimated public opposition to these closures. I am appalled at the misery this will inflict on thousands of people and the brutal haste with which the government has acted," he said.

Thickening the parade were Nigel Jones, Cheltenham's Liberal Democrat MP, Sir Charles Irving, a former Tory MP, and Clive Froggatt, a former adviser to Lady Thatcher. The Church was represented by the Right Rev Jeremy Walsh, the Bishop of Tewkesbury, and Canon Adrian Slade, social responsibility adviser to the Bishop of Gloucester.

## BA close to Dan-Air rescue package

By Harvey Elliott  
AIR CORRESPONDENT

PLANS for the closure of Dan-Air's charter operation and the creation of a new joint venture with British Airways for scheduled flights were being finalised last night.

Rival airlines have already drawn up contingency plans to carry thousands of holiday-makers booked to fly on Dan-Air charters and expect to have taken over the flights within the next few days.

Talks went on throughout the weekend involving Dan-Air, BA, bankers, lawyers and City advisers and a final decision on whether to set up the new airline is expected by the middle of this week. Before it can be implemented Dan-Air's chairman, David James, must convince his bankers to support the plan.

The government, which is desperate to avoid another embarrassment over job losses, has indicated that should BA team up with Dan-Air there will be no need for a protracted investigation by either the Monopolies and Mergers Commission or the European Competition Directorate in Brussels. Provided last-minute hurdles can be overcome therefore, the new airline, probably retaining the Dan-Air name for the time being, could be flying by the end of the week.

BA offers the last chance for Dan-Air to survive in any form and ministers are likely to give it their blessing rather than see the airline shut down with potentially devastating effects on employment at Gatwick.

## Quayle camp talks of Bush 'debacle'

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

AS President Bush prepares for what could be his final chance to retrieve any hope of re-election in two weeks time, Dan Quayle, the vice-president, has told *The Times* that he has his eyes on the next election in 1996. Members of the Quayle entourage, on the campaign trail in Texas, conceded that the Bush camp was close to a "debacle".

The third and final debate between Mr Bush, Bill Clin-



Quayle says Bush still has appetite for fight

ton and Ross Perot takes place tonight in East Lansing, Michigan. Yesterday Democrats struggled to suppress their excitement at the prospect of forming the next government, while Republican officials privately conceded that the election was almost beyond retrieval. They admit that to reverse the trend, Mr Bush would need to pull out an extraordinary performance tonight completely at variance with his lacklustre displays in the first two debates.

Speaking to *The Times* as he flew to Dallas, Mr Quayle denied reports that Mr Bush

had lost his appetite for the fight. He insisted that the president was "not a quitter" and would continue battling until polling day.

A *Newsweek* poll at the weekend gave Mr Clinton 46 per cent support, 15 points ahead of Mr Bush on 31, with Mr Perot on 14. A separate state-by-state survey showed the Democratic candidate comfortably ahead in 26 states that between them have 318 electoral college votes, 48 more than are required for victory.

Mr Clinton has begun warning his supporters against complacency, the standard appeal of the front-runner at this stage, but his travel schedule for the coming week indicated just how confident of victory he is. He is expected to visit states such as Nevada and Wyoming, which in normal years would be considered almost impregnable Republican strongholds.

One worry for the Democrat camp is that the increasingly desperate Republicans are about to revive the "character issue" with allegations of womanising against Mr Clinton. The highly-conservative *Washington Times* reported on Saturday that in the next edition of *Penthouse* magazine Jennifer Flowers, an Arkansas nightclub singer who in January claimed to have had an affair with Mr Clinton, will allege that she aborted his child.

Otherwise Republican officials are pinning their hopes on the "Perot factor". They hope some of those now committed to voting for Ross Perot, the third candidate, will vote for Mr Bush.

Quayle interview, page 11

## Jersey, for a real break with convention.



If you're planning a convention or conference soon why not have a change. Why not head for Jersey?

With all the excitement of leaving the mainland with none of the problems, Jersey may be nearer to France but it is still a part of Britain.

It has the same language and the same currency. But there is one thing it doesn't share, Jersey has no VAT (Good news for those watching the purse-strings!)

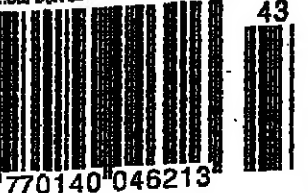
With first-class facilities, fine beaches and good food, Jersey knows how to strike the right balance between working efficiency and the need for relaxation.

Isn't it time you escaped the ordinary? Talk to the Jersey Conference Bureau on 0534 78000 and see why you should change your ways.

**Jersey**  
A break with convention.

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Mensa



Major faces embarrassing defeat in Commons as backbench anger grows over loss of 30,000 miners' jobs

# Eleven Tories plan to vote against pit closure programme

By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE prospect of an embarrassing government defeat over the pit closure programme became more credible yesterday as 11 Conservatives indicated that they would vote against the government in the Commons debate on Wednesday.

This would effectively be enough to defeat the government if the Labour motion were supported by all opposition MPs. Although the nine Ulster unionists are expected to abstain, a Labour victory could still be on the cards if more than ten other Tories abstain.

Several Tory backbenchers have told *The Times* that if Labour's motion called for a moratorium on the closures pending a review, they would abstain. This suggests that Wednesday's vote is destined to be extremely tight. Yesterday the former energy spokesman Sir Patrick McNair-Wilson added his voice to the Tory dissenters. Sir Patrick, MP for the New Forest, said that any move to cut coal production in favour of supplies from other countries would be "suicidal".

Whips from both main parties have been desperately trying to assess the likely Tory rebellion and find out how the smaller parties are likely to vote. Although the Scottish and Welsh nationalists are likely to vote with the Opposition, the Northern Irish MPs are less predictable, with perhaps only six out of 17 voting against the government, with most of the others abstaining.

The ten Conservatives include Winston Churchill, Elizabeth Peacock, Richard Alexander, Spencer Batiste, Gary Waller and Michael Carttis. William Cash said yesterday he was likely to vote against the government as did a member of the 1922 executive, who did not wish to be named. Nicholas and Ann Winterton and Dr Michael Clark told *The Times* last night that they would vote against the pit closure programme. Mr Winterton, MP

for Macclesfield, said: "The policy of pit closures is fundamentally wrong and to the long-term disadvantage of a secure energy strategy. The miners have done everything the government exhorted them to do and are being kicked in the teeth."

Dr Clark, who represents Rochford, said: "After 40 years of subsidising the coal industry and bringing it within two years of being competitive in the world markets it is a nonsense to close it down."

Mr Churchill, MP for Davyhulme, said on TV-am: "I hope the whips will be doing what Frank Bruno's opponent did: namely throwing in the sponge on this particular issue and recognise that they have gone up a blind alley and should do a U-turn."

Mr Carttis, MP for Great Yarmouth, claimed the closure programme was a dreadful mistake. "This is not what I fought the General Election in April for and the decision must be reversed," he said. "Here we are with the highest unemployment for five years and the government goes around with the stroke of a pen putting more people out of work."

Mr Batiste said that he would definitely vote against the government because coal should be a major part of Britain's energy programme for a long way ahead. "The extent of these closures is going too far," he said. "It is a devastating blow for the Yorkshire region and Yorkshire industry." The scale of the programme and the tight timetable were unacceptable, he said.

Gary Waller told Radio 4's *The World This Weekend* that he would vote with the Opposition unless there was a "substantial change" in policy.

Mrs Peacock, one of the first Tory MPs to speak out against the closures, urged any waverers to speak out to persuade the government to change tack. "Somehow before Wednesday we have to make the prime minister and the cabinet realise that the people in this country find what is happening very unacceptable and they want a change."

John Watts, chairman of the Commons treasury select committee said that the closures had been "crassly and badly" handled and gave a warning that Michael Heseltine's position was in danger.

"If he can show he has a proper and well thought-out policy and he is prepared to admit that he has made a mistake on this occasion, then his head should not necessarily be chopped on the block, but he certainly has a great deal of explaining to do for getting the government into this disastrous situation," he said.

John Cartis, another backbencher who has threatened to abstain, predicted that the Government would back down before Wednesday's debate. "I think that by Wednesday afternoon they will have changed course and announced a moratorium," he said. "The deed is right at the end of the day. It is the way that it's being done that has upset people."

Other Tory MPs who have spoken out publicly against the closures include: Sir John Hannam, Sir Tony Durant, James Pawsey, David Nicholson, Sir Teddy Taylor, Robert Adley and John Butcher.

Labour whips were last night playing down the possibility of a government defeat and claimed that they only had firm support from the Liberal Democrats. However, the four Scottish National Party MPs and three Plaid Cymru MPs are expected to vote with them, boosting the opposition vote to at least 303. This would reach 314 if 11 Tories vote against. The Tory numbers would drop to 323, if no other opposition MPs voted with them.

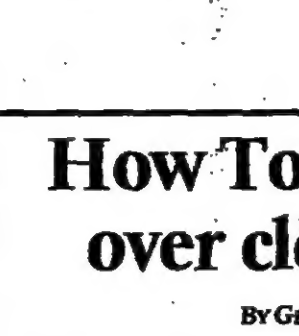
Tory rebels, page 1  
Letters, page 14  
Hidden resource, page 13



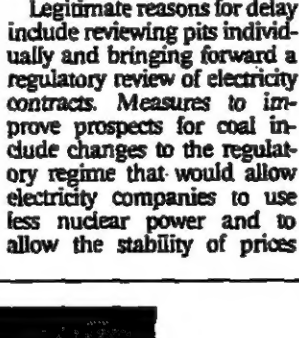
Winston Churchill  
Davyhulme  
Majority: 4,426  
"I hope the whips will be doing what Frank Bruno's opponent did: namely throwing in the sponge on this particular issue and recognise that they have gone up a blind alley and should do a U-turn."



Nicholas Winterton  
Macclesfield  
Majority: 22,767  
"The policy of pit closures is wrong and to the long-term disadvantage of a secure energy strategy. The miners have done everything the government exhorted them to do and are being kicked in the teeth."



Ann Winterton  
Macclesfield  
Majority: 11,120  
"I believe the proposals result from a flawed energy policy more to do with short-termism and a return on capital rather than long-term planning for the future."



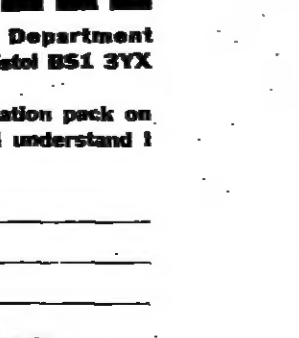
Michael Carttis  
Great Yarmouth  
Majority: 5,308  
"This is not what I fought the election for and the decision must be reversed. Here we are with the highest unemployment for five years and the government goes around putting more people out of work."



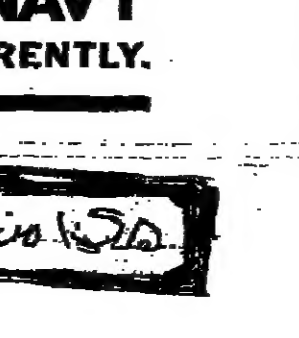
Gary Waller  
Kelshy  
Majority: 3,586  
He would vote with the Opposition unless there was a "substantial change" in the policy, he told Radio 4's *The World This Weekend*.



William Cash  
Stafford  
Majority: 10,900  
"I am likely to vote against the government on Wednesday."



Elizabeth Peacock  
Batley and Spen  
Majority: 1,408  
"Somehow before Wednesday we have to make the prime minister and the cabinet realise that the people in this country find what is happening very unacceptable and they want a change."



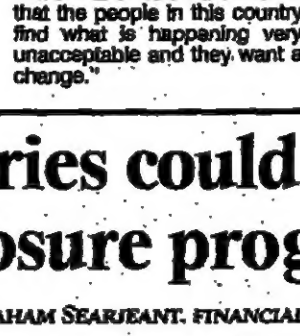
Richard Alexander  
Newark  
Majority: 8,229  
"My present intention is to vote against the government's proposals and vote instead for what I understand is the Opposition plan for a moratorium on pit closures."



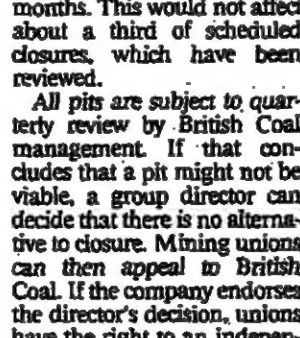
Spencer Batiste  
Elmet  
Majority: 3,261  
"The extent of these closures is going too far. It is a devastating blow for the Yorkshire region and Yorkshire industry." He said the scale of the programme and the tight timetable were unacceptable.



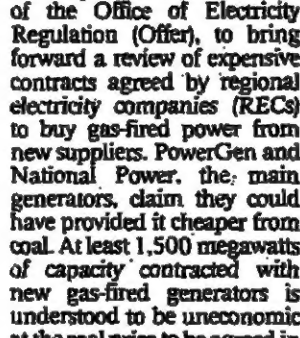
Dr Michael Clark  
Rochford  
Majority: 26,036  
"I am going to vote for the retention of our coal industry, but I am not voting against the government. I am voting for something positive. The whole thing is precipitate and badly handled."



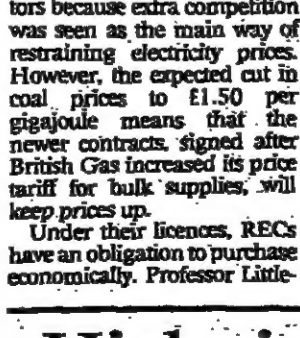
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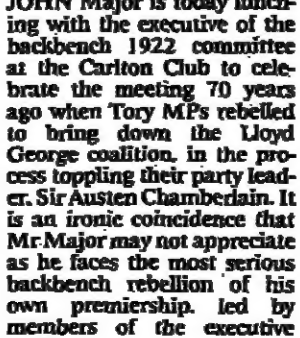
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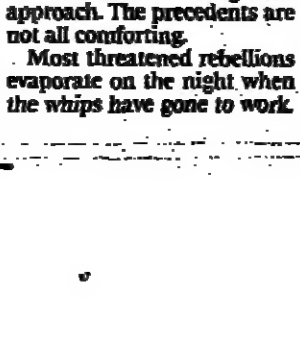
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## How Tories could buy time over closure programme

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

THE government has many options allowing it time to reconsider pit closures and to change the electricity industry regime to make room for more British coal and allow fewer pits to be closed without extra subsidies to British Coal.

Legitimate reasons for delay include reviewing pits individually and bringing forward a regulatory review of electricity contracts. Measures to improve prospects for coal include changes to the regulatory regime that would allow electricity companies to use less nuclear power and to allow the stability of prices

now offered by British Coal to be taken into account.

Application of a revised colliery review procedure, introduced in 1985 to take account of economic reasons for closure, would preserve some pits by up to nine months. This would not affect about a third of scheduled closures, which have been reviewed.

All pits are subject to quarterly review by British Coal management. If that concludes that there is no alternative to closure, mining unions can then appeal to British Coal.

If the company endorses the director's decision, unions have the right to an independent review by barristers. Their report must be given "due consideration" by the company, but is not binding. Pressure will rise for Professor Stephen Littlechild, head of the Office of Electricity Regulation (Ofreg), to bring forward a review of expensive contracts agreed by regional electricity companies (RECs) to buy gas-fired power from new suppliers. PowerGen and National Power, the main generators, claim they could have provided it cheaper from coal. At least 1,500 megawatts of capacity contracted with new gas-fired generators is understood to be uneconomic at the coal price to be agreed in negotiations for supplies after next spring. This will displace four million tons of coal a year.

Professor Littlechild encouraged RECs to sign 15-year contracts with new competitors because extra competition was seen as the main way of restraining electricity prices. However, the expected cut in coal prices to £1.50 per gigajoule means that the newer contracts, signed after British Gas increased its price tariff for bulk supplies, will keep prices up.

Under their licences, RECs have an obligation to purchase economically. Professor Littlechild told them two years ago, however, that he would not vet in advance contracts to come into effect next spring. He made clear that he would not force individual contracts, but only whether a portfolio of contracts was reasonable.

Consultants conducting these reviews are not expected to report until January, after most of the affected pits have closed. RECs will argue that gas contracts were economic at the coal prices ruling when they were signed.

Ofreg's review will take no account of the advantages of fixed price contracts for domestic coal. Gas contracts are based on a base price, but this is adjusted by indices linked to international prices of oil, gas and coal. Under the regulatory regime, such variations can be passed straight to consumers. If fuel cost adjustments were restricted, on future contracts, plans to substitute imports at variable prices for British coal would almost certainly be revised.

Industry sources estimate imports will rise sharply before falling back when gas-fired power is fully on stream in 1995-6. Up to 6 million tons of British coal sales might thus be encouraged.

At today's depressed international coal prices and freight rates, imported coal is cheaper if the exchange rate against the dollar, in which coal is priced, does not fall below about \$1.25. If freight rates rise, the breakeven exchange rate might be \$1.42.

Nuclear power, generated by a state company, is costlier than coal or oil, but distribution companies are required to purchase minimum quantities. This could be changed, and old Magnox plants shut early.

Such measures could make room for all the expected reduction in British coal sales. Many condemned pits could not provide coal economically at the reduced prices due in the new contract, but up to a half might be saved.

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## Nationalists back reprieve for pits

By RAY CLANCY AND EDWARD GORMAN

GOVERNMENT hopes of winning Wednesday's pit closures vote on the strength of abstentions by minor parties appeared to be fading yesterday.

Both Scottish and Welsh nationalists are preparing to back the Opposition motion calling for a delay in the closures programme while Ulster parties talk of either voting against the government or abstaining.

Should the vote come down to individual members, two Ulster members now promoting the province in the United States might be persuaded to Westminster to tip the balance in the direction of their choice. One is an SDLP member, who might normally be expected to vote with Labour, and the other a member of the Ulster Unionist Party.

Four Scottish National Party and three Plaid Cymru MPs are expected to unite against the government at a strategy meeting today. They are also tabling a motion of no confidence in the government. "If ever there was a time for going for the jugular, this is it," an SNP spokesman said yesterday.

Margaret Ewing, the SNP parliamentary leader, said that the government was "completely discredited". She has already asked for a meeting with John Major this week to discuss the Maastricht treaty. The SNP wants a joint referendum on Europe and independence for Scotland.

Both nationalist parties believe that the public does not support the closure of the pits. David Wigley, Plaid Cymru president, said that the government had made the country a laughing stock. "We are prepared to force them to face the anger of the people."

Of Ulster's 17 MPs, only one is thought to be considering supporting the government. Three from Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionist Party are expected to vote with

Labour as will the three SDLP members. Jim Kilfedder, the independent Popular Unionist, will vote for the government only if significant changes are announced in the closure plans before the debate.

The main Ulster Unionist Party, which will have eight members present on Wednesday, has yet to formally determine which way it will vote, but key figures in the party say it will not support the government and will either abstain or vote with Labour. Pit closures do not directly affect Northern Ireland, where there are no mining communities left, but there is great sympathy for the miners and anger at the way the government has handled the decision.

Northern Ireland has coped with its own severe economic problems over 20 years and has an unemployment rate of 19 per cent which is now beginning to rise as the recession starts to bite later in the province than on the mainland.

Eddie McGrady, the SDLP MP for South Down, said that his party regarded Wednesday's vote as a chance to censure the government's overall handling of the economy over the past 13 years.

The intentions of the UUP which could hold the overall balance, remain unclear. Ken Maginnis, MP for Fermanagh and South Tyrone, said that he believed there was no chance it would support the government.

John Taylor, MP for Strangford, said that he would abstain unless the Labour motion offered a realistic alternative to the government's proposals. "There is no way I am going to vote with the government," he said.

Jim Molyneux, the party leader, may well err on the side of caution and advise the party to abstain when it meets to discuss its options either tomorrow or on Wednesday morning.

## High-risk tactics may not deter rebels

By PETER RIDDLE, POLITICAL EDITOR

COMMENTARY

JOHN Major is today lunching with the executive of the backbench 1922 committee at the Carlton Club to celebrate the meeting 70 years ago when Tory MPs rebelled to bring down the Lloyd George coalition, in the process toppling their party leader, Sir Austen Chamberlain. It is an ironic coincidence that Mr Major may not appreciate as he faces the most serious backbench rebellion of his own premiership, led by members of the executive itself.

By ruling out any change to the announced pit closure programme, John Major is testing his resolve against that of publicly declared potential rebels. It is a high-risk approach. The precedents are not all comforting.

Most threatened rebellions evaporate on the night when the whips have gone to work.

In the nine years up to the April election, when the Tories had majorities of 100 or more most of the time, the whips could safely tolerate regular small revolts. When half a dozen MPs vote against the government and it still has a majority of 120, no one cares. But it is different when the overall majority is only 21, though there is a margin of 65 over Labour.

Governments with overall majorities do occasionally lose votes. Leaving aside matters such as MPs' pay rises and allowances, the Tories were beaten on immigration rules in 1982 and on Sunday trading in 1986.

Much more common, however, is that the government backs down or makes concessions to win over a sufficient number of its own rebels, as it did over student grants in 1984 and over Whitehall

grants to local authorities in 1990.

There is a regular pattern. The government makes its announcement; there are protests by Tory MPs threatening a rebellion; the whips make their calculations on the prominence as well as the number of potential rebels; affected ministers talk to the Treasury about concessions; these are disclosed in a suitable spirit of humility; and the revolt fizzles out.

The difficulty this time is that the concessions of extra money for training redundant miners, have already been hinted at over the weekend but have so far made no impact on the potential rebels who are primarily concerned about the core issue of the timing of pit closures.

The government will undertake two exercises. First, Michael Heseltine will seek to persuade Tory MPs. In his Commons statement this afternoon and in private meet-

ings, the closure plan is unavoidable and cannot be delayed. This will be reinforced at Mr Major's lunch, and in other intensive lobbying. Second, the whips will assess the strength of the rebellion. So far, most of those threatening to oppose the government are from the populist right of the party and, or from mining areas.

Mr Major, Mr Heseltine and other senior ministers will then decide whether to stick to their resolve of the weekend, or whether to retreat, probably by offering a review or some other delay. That would probably emerge on Tuesday since no government likes to announce concessions during the course of a debate. Initiated by the opposition. Equally, no government, especially one so dominated by former whips as the Major cabinet, wants to risk a Commons defeat. Even an embarrassing tactical retreat is preferable.

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# Miners' wives lead protest on a wave of public support

By RONALD FAUX

MINERS and their wives and children marched through Mansfield yesterday, confident of the strong tide of public sympathy and support behind them in their campaign against the closure of 31 pits.

The crowd of about 5,000 set out from the Union of Democratic Mineworkers headquarters at Berry Hill to the town's football ground, where a rally was organised by the wives of men in the Nottinghamshire coalfield. Liz Smith, 31, said the wives were not prepared to sit back and allow the government to shatter mining communities.

"What started off as just a few mothers and their children really has escalated into this rally today," Mrs Smith said. "The support is incredible and shows the strength of feeling. We are angry and we are prepared to support our husbands all the way. The Nottinghamshire coalfield is the backbone of the country and prepared to keep the country going through the strike."

The rally was called after it became clear that the closures demanded by British Coal would put 9,000 local men on the dole. Alan Simpson, Labour MP for Nottingham South, called for the region's

mining community, bitterly divided by the miners' strike, to bury its differences and unite for the sake of the pits.

From 1,200ft underground at Silverhill pit near Mansfield, where he is holding a one-man protest, Roy Lynk, leader of the UDM, warned against allowing left-wing extremists to jump on the bandwagon and lose the public support the miners enjoyed.

His wife, Sandra, was not at the rally. She had not been invited, she said. "If they had wanted me to be there I would have gone. I think people still resent us for what happened during the strike."

Mr Lynk was preparing to spend his fourth night down Silverhill, awaiting the response to his call for a nationwide blackout. He asked everyone who supported his campaign to switch off lights for two minutes at 9pm.

The women were determined to do all they could to save their husbands' jobs. Outraged that having suffered abuse for working during the strike they should now be threatened with the destruction of their communities, they marched through Mansfield with banners that declared "A miner is always worth more than a Major" and "Land of no hope and Tory".



Coal tip: protesting Yorkshire miners dumping coal on the drive to Michael Heseltine's estate near Banbury, Oxfordshire, yesterday

## Hope of court backing halts Scargill strike move

By NICHOLAS WATT

ARTHUR Scargill backed away from striking against the pit closures when he realised that public opinion was rallying behind the miners and he could challenge British Coal in the courts, a close colleague, who wanted to remain anonymous, said last night.

Miners' blood had been spilt in the 1984 strike, but this time it would be the government's turn to suffer, Mr Scargill realised. His initial reaction to the closures was to recommend last Wednesday that the union should hold a strike ballot over "the senseless slaughter" of the mining industry.

By the following day his tone was very different. He

would support a strike only if the government refused to accept "the logical arguments supported by a wide breadth of public opinion".

A pragmatic Mr Scargill had accepted, his colleague said, that there was no point in alienating public support. Miners may have felt beleaguered when the pit closures were announced, but as the TUC switchboard was inundated with calls of support last Wednesday their morale was bolstered.

A meeting of the National Union of Mineworkers' executive heard that a ballot recommending a strike would be too late to save the initial pit closures. The redundancies

may also have contravened the Employment Act and the meeting heard that there could be a chance of reversing the closures in the court.

By the weekend a very different Mr Scargill took the stage before 10,000 supporters in Chesterfield. At the meeting Mr Scargill was greeted with loud cheers when he said: "I am getting more popular than John Major. This is a fight not only for the mining industry, but for the British people — and even more important this is a fight for our human dignity."

"We have already won the social and economic arguments and hopefully in the coming weeks we will win the

### Winning over the waverers

By JILL SHERMAN  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL Heseltine, the trade and industry secretary, will try to win over Tory waverers today by announcing a multi-million-pound recovery package for the mining communities most affected by last Tuesday's announcement.

Mr Heseltine, who is staking his policy on today's statement in the Commons, is confident that the package will ensure a government victory on Wednesday. It will include about £100 million on training and a "significant" allocation for grants to develop local communities on the lines adopted for Corby, Northamptonshire, and Shotton, Chwyd, after the steel plants were closed down in 1981.

Yesterday, Mr Heseltine made clear there would be no defection from the programme to close 31 pits by next March, resulting in 30,000 redundancies. However, trade and industry sources said he was likely to give details of local regeneration plans to encourage firms to invest in the area. The grants are expected to cover clearing the pit sites and building factories or warehouses to house small businesses. Firms will be given financial incentives to move into the mining communities and employ some of the redundant miners.

But industry sources said the assisted area schemes are designed for boom years rather than the midst of a recession. They said the spread of the package over several areas was likely to diminish any positive political impact.

## Bishops condemn ministers over 'self-inflicted disaster'

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THIS Bishop of Durham last night accused the government of a "dangerous and immoral" use of power in the pit closure programme. Dr David Jenkins said that the government was acting with a "blind dogmatism, a determined selfishness and arrogance which has a strong element of sin".

Earlier yesterday, the Archbishop of York, Dr John Habgood, urged the government to think again and accused it of lacking moral vision.

The church, for once united in its opposition, has condemned the closure plans with a vigorous suggestion of a return to the 1980s church and state "cold war". John Gummer, the agriculture minister, yesterday hit back at church critics and insisted that the moral argument was far closures.

Mr Gummer said: "The sadness is that morality means that we have got to have these cuts in the production of coal to safeguard the jobs of many, many more people who would otherwise be thrown out."

The Anglican bishops of Liverpool, Sheffield, Wakefield and Derby have said that

the closures constituted a "self-inflicted disaster". Cardinal Basil Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, said: "There must be a strong case for halting any colliery closures."

Dr Jenkins said: "There is a degree of blindness, a degree of dogmatism which amounts to moral irresponsibility if not moral incompetence." To make the announcement without consulting Parliament suggested "a degree of irresponsible power which in itself is dangerous if not immoral", he said.

Dr Habgood, speaking on BBC Radio 4's *Sunday*, said: "To devastate communities like this, to do it almost overnight, I think robs people of all dignity and a sense of meaning." There was inadequate evidence that the government had looked at the whole picture, particularly long-term energy supplies. He urged Tory MPs to condemn the decision in Parliament.

Mr Gummer, responding on *Sunday*, said that failure to shut the pits would mean higher electricity prices and even more redundancies. "It would be a curious moral vision if we kept these pits open and as a result had to close hospitals and schools because of the cost, or force up the price of electricity so we lost many more jobs all over the country," he said.

"It costs £25 million to keep these pits open and we are digging coal out of the ground and piling it up because nobody wants it. And I don't find it a very moral concept to pay people to do that. That's not human dignity."



Dr Jenkins' government was blindly dogmatic

## Press makes it Major's Black Sunday

By BRIAN MACARTHUR

AFTER nearly 50 years in politics, Roy Jenkins declared in the *Observer* that he had never seen Britain worse governed. There were black borders on the front pages of the *News of the World* and *The Sunday Times*, which devoted nearly five pages to "Depression Britain". John Major had sullied his honour and exposed his incompetence, said *The Sunday Telegraph*. He had lost the confidence of the nation, *The Independent* on Sunday added in a front page comment.

The ferocity of Fleet Street's denunciation of the stature and competence of John Major as prime minister yesterday is unprecedented in this century, according to veteran former editors, especially since the Tory papers now savaging him were his most

loyal cheerleaders during the April general election. Not even a Labour government had suffered such a hammering from the Tory press, said one.

"This is the first time in half a century in newspapers that I have witnessed the Practorian Guard of the Tory party in open mutiny," Hugh Cudlipp, who first edited a national newspaper in 1937, said yesterday. "The unanimity of this appointment is deafening."

Attacks on Tory prime ministers are expected from Labour papers such as the *Sunday Mirror* and *The People*, both of which said yesterday that he should go. Yet none of Britain's nine major national papers, not even his usual Tory cheerleaders, had a good word for Mr Major yesterday. At the top of

the front page of the *News of the World*, which sells 4.7 million copies, there was a deadly item ringed by a black border. Every word of the next 39 pages represented a sacked pitman, it said. Paper after paper added to the chorus of complaint. Affection for the prime minister was drifting into anger, said *The Mail on Sunday*. He could count himself fortunate there was no ready-made alternative. The *Independent* on Sunday urged Tory MPs to put their loyalty to their constituents and country first and if necessary support a vote of no confidence, as their predecessors did to bring down Neville Chamberlain. Urging a new deal for Britain, *The Sunday Times* argued that Mr Major had lost his way. "He needs to tear up the

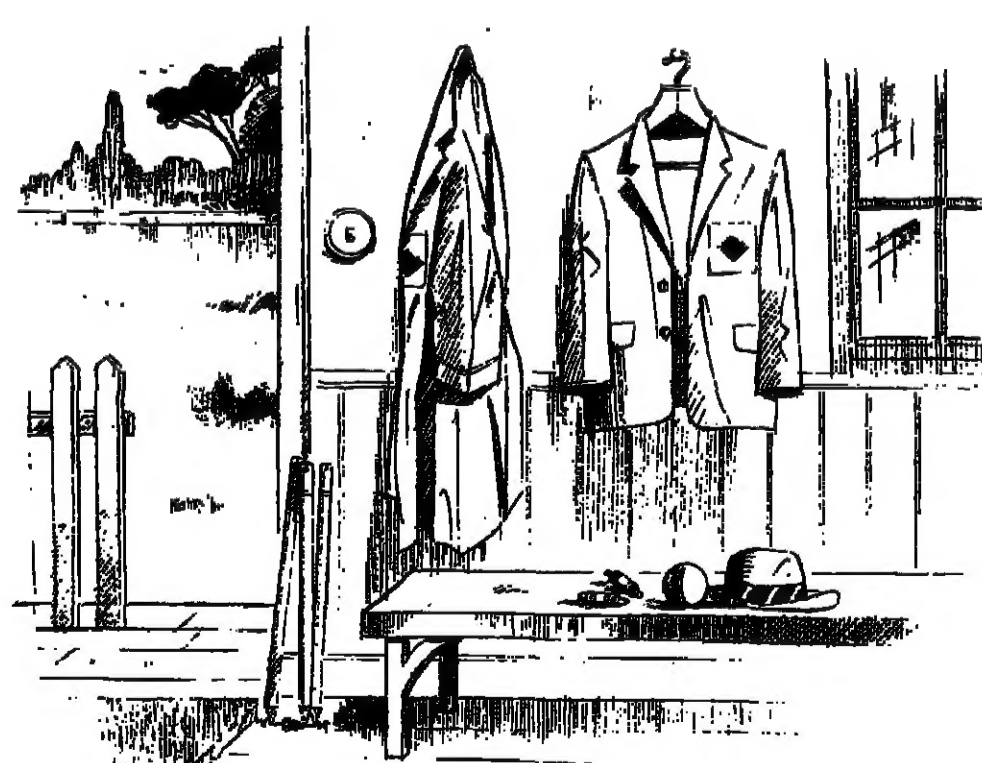
script and start again, casting himself as the Franklin Roosevelt of the decade. At present he is destined to be its Ramsay MacDonald."

Yet it was *The Sunday Telegraph*, the bible of the Tory heartlands that made the most deadly attack on the prime minister.

Mr Major's definition of honour was more like what the rest of us called saving one's face, it said, describing Britain as now burning with anger and possessed by fear. His government was held in contempt.

Still more disturbing for Mr Major is the loss of support of *The Sun*. "Is Major a goner?" its front page asked on Saturday over a report which said that MPs were now laying bets on his chances of surviving beyond Christmas.

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French archaeologist aims to seek out lieutenant's descendants with news of his fate

## Remains of British wartime pilot unearthed

■ Gold cufflinks were among the effects of a wartime pilot shot down over Normandy

FROM CHARLES BREMNER  
IN PARIS

AN AMATEUR aviation archaeologist in Normandy has dug up the human remains and belongings of a second world war British pilot and his aircraft, which should identify the pilot and provide his family with news of his fate. In Essex, meanwhile, the bodies of a German aircrew have been found.

The wreck of the British aircraft, believed to be a Seafire, the naval version of the Spitfire, were excavated by a mechanical digger 20 feet deep in a maize field near Rauville-la-Place, 19 miles south of Cherbourg.

Yesterday Patrick Delahaye, 31, a nurse at the Cherbourg army hospital, began trying to piece together the story of the pilot and his last mission. It was on an October day in 1942 that the British pilot, believed to have been a Fleet Air Arm lieutenant, flew to his death in combat with a Luftwaffe plane over the fields of German-occupied Normandy.

M Delahaye's clues are scraps of what appears to be Fleet Air Arm uniform with lieutenant's insignia and a name tag "Eaden D". The flying boots, however, bear the name Warren. The most striking objects are a handsome pair of gold cufflinks.

M Delahaye said: "They are the most beautiful I have ever seen. Perhaps they were a gift from his wife. She might still be living." An embroidered handkerchief, silk maps, 2,000 francs, a comb and fountain pen were also found along with a number of other papers.

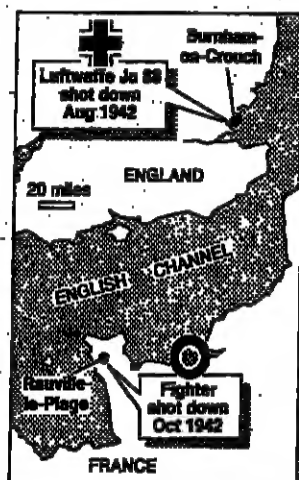
"I want to find the family of the pilot and ask them if they would accept the personal effects," said M Delahaye. He



Action in the air: a second world war Seafire, a naval version of the Spitfire. An aircraft and its pilot were excavated in Normandy

spends his spare time hunting the remains of wartime aircraft, mainly German and American, and reporting his findings to descendants. He had not come across human remains before and is upset that his digger had disturbed a grave.

The remains of the German crew were found 20ft below ground level at Burnham-on-Crouch, Essex. Their Junkers 88 was shot down on August 1942. The wreckage and bodies and teeth of the crew were found when RAF bomb disposal men excavated the site after devices were found in a sugar beet field.



## Thousands are still missing

BY MICHAEL HORSNELL AND ROBIN YOUNG

THE pilot whose remains were found in Normandy this weekend is one of 35,000 British and Commonwealth airmen with no known grave. With 5,000 aircraft on land and at sea still missing and their crew unburied, up to half a dozen wrecks are located each year sometimes down to 20ft below the ground.

Teams of enthusiasts regularly recover aircraft in Britain by researching RAF records

from the Public Records Office. The uncontrolled excavation of wartime aircraft wrecks led to the passing of the 1986 Protection of Military Remains Act preventing the digging up of a wartime aircraft in Britain without a defence ministry licence. That is granted only if files show there are no missing air crew aboard.

The effect of the Act is to make the aircraft war graves, but investigators have been

able to use witness accounts, written records, and items with serial numbers to identify the remains of pilots listed as having no known grave.

Malcolm Pettit, founder of the Historic Aircraft Archaeologists group based at Tonbridge, who has found or helped to find up to 60 aircraft, said yesterday: "We owe it to these brave young men who gave their lives to give them a decent burial."

## New tests will make pupils 'crack up'

Baroness Blatch, the education minister, yesterday rejected a warning by the second largest teaching union that 14-year-old pupils would break down under the pressure of national curriculum tests (Matthew d'Ancona writes). A survey of 796 schools by the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers published today found that the pilot tests in mathematics and science taken by 500,000 teenagers in June "imposed a greater strain on these pupils than would have been the case with GCSE candidates". Six hours of examinations in two days proved too much for many candidates, it claims.

Teachers complained that the assessments caused severe disruption in schools at a time when staff were busy with other public examinations, and that changes in the attainment targets prevented them from covering syllabuses properly. One in five teachers said they had spent six working days marking the mathematics tests. More than 50 per cent of teachers believed that the science tests were too difficult for 14-year-old pupils. Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary, said that the tests should be scrapped before the burden on teachers and pupils became insupportable.

## Judiciary changes urged

The closed system of selecting judges should be scrapped and replaced with an open system of job advertisements, formal interviews and assessments of judges' performance in court, a report recommends today. The report by Justice, the all-party law reform group, also calls for the setting up of a judicial commission to open up the way judges are appointed, oversee judicial training and complaints against the judiciary. The commission is the central plank of its proposals to overhaul appointments to the bench.

## Jailed Briton ill

The family of Michael Wainwright, the Briton jailed in Baghdad, believe he has been suffering from a bout of severe depression. Reports from Iraq suggest that Mr Wainwright, from Ripponden, West Yorkshire, has been ill. Letters from Paul Ride, the Londoner kept in the same prison, also mention Mr Wainwright's depression. Russian aid workers are due to visit him again tomorrow. A decision on whether an appeal to the Supreme Court will be allowed against his ten-year sentence is expected on Friday.

## MPs' foreign aid plea

More than 200 MPs have signed an open letter to the Chancellor, Norman Lamont, urging him not to cut overseas aid. In the letter, published as an advertisement in *The Times* today, MPs urge the government to stand by a commitment made last year to increase the overseas aid programme for developing countries over the next three years.

## Top tipples

Only four beers by big brewers are in the top 48 in the 1993 *Good Beer Guide*. Bass Worthington White Shield, Courage Imperial Russian Stout and Guinness Original shared honours with local brews in the bottled-conditioned beers category. Scottish and Newcastle's Theakston Old Peculier was among best old ales and strong milds.

## Does the key to globalisation lie in how much territory you cover or how well you cover it?

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## ■ As Cholesterol Countdown Week starts, American doctors say cholesterol-measuring may be a waste of time

The doctors find no link between high cholesterol and cardiovascular deaths in personal history of heart disease.

**Leading article, page 15**

**Leading article, page 15**

Childhood memories: *The Day The Cameramen Came*, one of the paintings in the exhibition which Frank Smith, right, will never sell

His workhouse paintings tell of a happy life and include a recollection of being caught stealing jam and riding in pushchairs. "We had love and laughs. Of course, I would have liked to see my mother more, and know who my father was, but we were cared for. The superintendent of the workhouse used to play the accordion to us, and sometimes that music moved me to tears."



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discuss the ban, which re-  
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panel member speaks on behalf  
of their party, John Birt, BBC

German officials are determined that the visit should be success. "The thunderstorm is past, and the weather is clear again," a foreign ministry spokesman said. "Some people say that Germans have sold their souls to the French, but there is still a great warmth of feeling between the two peoples."

67/10150



## Village fights opening of biggest bail hostel

By ALICE THOMSON

RESIDENTS of a Surrey village will today try to reverse a decision to open a large bail hostel at a former children's home.

The proposal has transformed Bramley, near Guildford, into a battle zone as residents struggle to stop Surrey probation service going ahead with the plan. The bail hostel would be Britain's biggest, housing 45 alleged offenders and people on probation.

In spite of protests to the Home Office and a 2,700-name petition to the prime minister, the villagers have so far failed to stop the conversion of a disused county council children's home. At Surrey probation committee's quarterly meeting today, they hope to reverse the decision before renovation work begins.

The government is promising £8 million to finance bail hostels for more than 1,000 people on remand as a key part of its strategy to divert alleged offenders from overcrowded prisons. But it is leaving local probation committees to choose sites.

Maurice Byham, chairman of a protest group set up in Bramley, said: "This will be a hostel for serious alleged offenders between 17 and 25, not the homeless or petty criminals."

### Tolerance tested by dread of the unknown

Few issues are more likely to unite a community in anger than plans for a bail hostel

By RICHARD FORD

THE prospect of alleged burglars and car thieves living in local communities can, it seems, stretch the tolerance of the most liberally minded, provoking opposition and petitions from protest groups.

Eighteen months ago, the conversion of a former pub and one-time home for apprentices into a 32-bed bail hostel triggered demonstrations at Langley village on the outskirts of Birmingham. "It was fear of the unknown. People were frightened of the kind of people who would move in," said Hazel Jeff, who is a cleaner in the hostel that she objected to being sited opposite her home.

There have been some complaints about the noise in the summer but it is not just bail hostels where people play music too loudly. If anything worse happens, the police arrive quickly and remove people.

Sycamore Lodge bail hostel is home to various clients, as the probation service describes those in its care. Most of the 24 residents are in the peak offending age range of 17 to 25, awaiting trial at crown court for alleged offences including theft, burglary, drink-driving, false imprisonment and domestic assaults.

Each has a centrally-heated room, carpeted and furnished with a fitted wardrobe and washbasin, metal frame bed, bedside table and chair. All residents must be out of bed by 9am, keep their rooms clean and tidy, and make their own breakfast. Lunch, dinner and supper are prepared for them but there is a residents' rota for cleaning the dining room and the floors and loading and unloading the dishwasher.

Unemployed residents pay £13 a week for their board and the few who are working pay £48 a week. Mick Golding, 20, who is awaiting trial on a drink-drive charge, said: "I've been told this hostel is one of the best. It's clean and the food is good. It's a bit of a hotel really, lush but not luxury."

During the day residents are free to leave the hostel but they must be back by 11pm and in their rooms by midnight. Les Turner, the warden, said: "A lot of people come here with damaged and erratic lives. We hope we can help them to look after themselves better and take a more positive attitude to life."

Typical bailies include those accused of burglary, car theft, drink-driving, and domestic assault. Anyone a magistrate deems suitable can be sent to a hostel. Mr Byham said: "The residents are naturally frightened of increased crime. They think the village will die because no one will be able to walk around freely anymore."

The major worry for villagers is the size of the proposed hostel. It will be in an extensive red-brick building with 22 doors, surrounded by trees. On one side there is a disused graveyard and a primary school, on the other a mock-tudor housing estate.

Mr Byham said: "This is not just a nifty — not in my backyard — reaction. Forty-five is too many for a town let alone any small village. Bramley has only 3,700 residents. There is no entertainment for these men and the nearest police station is 15 minutes away. They need to be in a town or city." His concern is shared by some members of the probation service outside Surrey.

Bramley has four homes catering for 218 underprivileged, abused or emotionally disturbed children, two half-way houses for 40 single-parent families and various housing schemes for the elderly. The probation service was able to buy the property without consulting the village because the conversion was not, in planning jargon, a material change of use.

Michael Varah, Surrey's chief probation officer, said: "The council had been looking for a site for three years. This one seemed ideal because it was cheap and it did not require planning permission for change of use. The large size of the scheme was dictated by the building on offer."

Mr Varah said that residents were starting themselves unnecessarily. "They are determined to close the bail hostel irrespective of the competence of our management. But Surrey probation service can show that few of our bailies offend."

"The majority of the bailies will be at the hostel for under two months. They will be kept busy with sports and classes. There will be certain no-go areas and a curfew. Of course they will be mixing with the villagers. Some will be proven innocent and many have families of their own. The magistrates would not send people who would be a real threat to the community."

Archie Hamilton, the armed forces minister, who lives in the village, backs the protest, as does David Howell, the area's Conservative MP. "I was not told until very late in the day. Even the Home Office doesn't seem easy with the proposition but they are just the financial backers. I hope the probation committee and the people of Surrey will put their heads together and think of somewhere more suitable."



At ease: a Sea Cadet appears to find the Golden Jubilee parade in London yesterday less than enthralling. Or perhaps he was just miming his officer's instructions. Still, the timing could have been better: the Sea Cadets were on parade in Trafalgar Square in front of the Duke of York, who is their Lieutenant Commander

## BR gears up for its autumn offensive against wet leaves

By MICHAEL DYNES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

MILLIONS of tiny stainless steel balls are being used by British Rail engineers in their annual autumn offensive against the *bête noire* of the national rail network: wet leaves on the line.

By adding stainless steel balls to the sticky paste that BR applies on the tracks to prevent trains from skidding on an accumulation of wet leaves, engineers hope to improve the poor conductivity between wheel and track. The leaves caused havoc to commuter services during last year's leaf fall.

BR's steel balls are the latest device in what has become a veritable panoply of techniques aimed at reducing the partial paralysis of the rail network caused by fallen leaves each autumn.

British Rail's armoury now includes everything from a Swedish track scrubbing train to an Austrian snake-grinding wagon.

British Rail engineers are confident, however, that there

will be no repetition of last year's debacle, caused by sudden bouts of high winds sweeping large numbers of leaves onto railway lines throughout Britain. This is mainly because they have spent most of the past 12 months cutting down some 50,000 offending trees.

BR estimates that there are about 75,000 acres of roadside vegetation alongside the rail network, an area roughly the size of Liverpool, which harbours tens of thousands of trees, each of which can deposit some 50,000 leaves onto the railway lines.

British Rail researchers have found that high pressure contact between wheels and rails turns the leaf debris into a hard, black layer, consisting of 50 per cent of organic material and 50 per cent ferrous oxides. "In dry weather this layer forms a good insulator, but can adversely affect track circuitry, causing signalling difficulties, and in wet weather it creates low levels of adhesion

which can bring braking problems," a British Rail spokesman said.

Annual leaf fall is heavier today than it was in the days of steam, largely because until last year the traditional practice of systematically cutting back roadside vegetation in an effort to reduce the risk of fires caused by engine sparks had been abandoned.

Now roadside vegetation can be cut back but only after consultation with local conservation groups over the preservation of sites considered important to wildlife.

While tree-felling is the most cost-effective remedy for leaves on the line, an array of technical solutions are available for those situations where the axe is inappropriate. Rail adhesion trains, which apply a paste called Sandite to the rails, the latest version of which contains the stainless steel balls, are used at stations and on gradients to assist the driving wheels to grip slippery tracks.

Regional Railways are also using so-called Swedish track scrubbing trains in Yorkshire, each of which have a series of rotating brushes to remove leaves from the track.

An Austrian version of this technique, known as a snake grinder, uses a series of abrasive wooden blocks stung between the wheels to keep the tracks clear.

Experiments are also being carried out with trains using high-pressure water jets to disperse leaves, and with trains fitted with deflector skirts to prevent leaves clogging up the wheel sets.

If all else fails, modern rolling stock fitted with disc brakes can be modified to take traditional clasp brakes, which are highly effective in burning leaves off the wheels.

## Women's fear of attack increasing

By JULIA LLEWELLYN SMITH

MANY women in Britain fear being attacked and about a third say they would never walk home in the dark, while more than half are frightened while in railway carriages during the day, according to a survey published today.

The survey in the November issue of *She* magazine says that 95 per cent of women fear for their safety, with a third being far more frightened than they used to be. Women in London and the South East worry most and women in Wales and the South West are least concerned.

Half the women surveyed have received an obscene telephone call, a third have been victims of indecent exposure and more than a quarter have been sexually assaulted or physically attacked.

Most women questioned blame the increased violence on rising unemployment, followed by poor discipline and violence on television. Nearly half say that the rising divorce rate is significant.

Despite the fears, statistics show that young men are far more likely to be the victims of violent crime, than women. Helen Peggs, of Victim Support, said: "The risks of being raped by a stranger are very small indeed — approximately one in 25,000 — but most women would put the risk higher. There are several theories about why that is. One is that women's fear about rape by a stranger is inborn; another is that reporting tends to focus upon violent crime, especially against women."

The survey is based on 3,000 questionnaires.

## Fischer is two wins from chess title

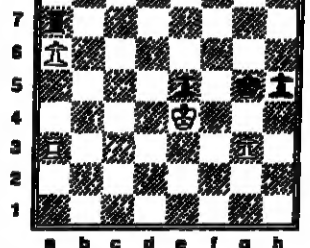
By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

THE reclusive American chess genius Bobby Fischer is now within sight of the lion's share of the \$5 million (£2.96 million) prize in his self-styled "World Chess Championship" against Boris Spassky in Belgrade.

Fischer won game 21 after 67 moves and a marathon 8½ hours of play. Fischer now has eight wins and requires just two more to clinch the match. Spassky has won four games. Nine have been drawn.

For game 21 Fischer for the first time in the match chose the open variation against the Sicilian defence, one of the main highways of modern chess opening theory. The middlegame developed along established lines, with Spassky adopting a solid defensive system known as the "Hedgehog".

Spassky sacrificed two pawns to seize the initiative



The final position

but on move 43 went astray by re-establishing the material equilibrium instead of pursuing his attack. This presented Fischer with a slightly advantageous endgame, with a dangerous pawn on the extreme queen's flank that could press on and promote.

This time, in sharp distinction to his bungled endgame of game 19, Fischer conducted the technical phase with accuracy and by the move 63 it was clear that Spassky had been driven into a hopeless situation where his rook was paralysed. On move 67 Spassky capitulated.

White	Black	White	Black
1 a4	g5	25 Nd5	Qd4
2 Bc2	h6	26 Bb3	Qd5
3 Qd4	g4	27 Rb1	Qd6
4 Bb3	g3	28 Bb3	Qd7
5 Bc2	g2	29 Bb3	Qd8
6 e4	h5	30 Bb3	Qd9
7 Nc3	h4	31 Bb3	Qd10
8 Qd5	h3	32 Bb3	Qd11
9 Bc2	h2	33 Bb3	Qd12
10 Qd6	h1	34 Bb3	Qd13
11 Bc2	h0	35 Bb3	Qd14
12 Bc2	h0	36 Bb3	Qd15
13 Bc2	h0	37 Bb3	Qd16
14 Bc2	h0	38 Bb3	Qd17
15 Bc2	h0	39 Bb3	Qd18
16 Bc2	h0	40 Bb3	Qd19
17 Bc2	h0	41 Bb3	Qd20
18 Bc2	h0	42 Bb3	Qd21
19 Bc2	h0	43 Bb3	Qd22
20 Bc2	h0	44 Bb3	Qd23
21 Bc2	h0	45 Bb3	Qd24
22 Bc2	h0	46 Bb3	Qd25
23 Bc2	h0	47 Bb3	Qd26
24 Bc2	h0	48 Bb3	Qd27
25 Bc2	h0	49 Bb3	Qd28
26 Bc2	h0	50 Bb3	Qd29
27 Bc2	h0	51 Bb3	Qd30
28 Bc2	h0	52 Bb3	Qd31
29 Bc2	h0	53 Bb3	Qd32
30 Bc2	h0	54 Bb3	Qd33
31 Bc2	h0	55 Bb3	Qd34
32 Bc2	h0	56 Bb3	Qd35
33 Bc2	h0	57 Bb3	Qd36
34 Bc2	h0	58 Bb3	Qd37
35 Bc2	h0	59 Bb3	Qd38
36 Bc2	h0	60 Bb3	Qd39
37 Bc2	h0	61 Bb3	Qd40
38 Bc2	h0	62 Bb3	Qd41
39 Bc2	h0	63 Bb3	Qd42
40 Bc2	h0	64 Bb3	Qd43
41 Bc2	h0	65 Bb3	Qd44
42 Bc2	h0	66 Bb3	Qd45
43 Bc2	h0	67 Bb3	Qd46
44 Bc2	h0	68 Bb3	Qd47
45 Bc2	h0	69 Bb3	Qd48
46 Bc2	h0	70 Bb3	Qd49
47 Bc2	h0	71 Bb3	Qd50
48 Bc2	h0	72 Bb3	Qd51
49 Bc2	h0	73 Bb3	Qd52
50 Bc2	h0	74 Bb3	Qd53
51 Bc2	h0	75 Bb3	Qd54
52 Bc2	h0	76 Bb3	Qd55
53 Bc2	h0	77 Bb3	Qd56
54 Bc2	h0	78 Bb3	Qd57
55 Bc2	h0	79 Bb3	Qd58
56 Bc2	h0	80 Bb3	Qd59
57 Bc2	h0	81 Bb3	Qd60
58 Bc2	h0	82 Bb3	Qd61
59 Bc2	h0	83 Bb3	Qd62
60 Bc2	h0	84 Bb3	Qd63
61 Bc2	h0	85 Bb3	Qd64
62 Bc2	h0	86 Bb3	Qd65
63 Bc2	h0	87 Bb3	Qd66
64 Bc2	h0	88 Bb3	Qd67
65 Bc2	h0	89 Bb3	Qd68
66 Bc2	h0	90 Bb3	Qd69
67 Bc2	h0	91 Bb3	Qd70
68 Bc2	h0	92 Bb3	Qd71
69 Bc2	h0	93 Bb3	Qd72
70 Bc2	h0	94 Bb3	Qd73
71 Bc2	h0	95 Bb3	Qd74
72 Bc2	h0	96 Bb3	Qd75
73 Bc2	h0	97 Bb3	Qd76
74 Bc2	h0	98 Bb3	Qd77
75 Bc2	h0	99 Bb3	Qd78
76 Bc2	h0	100 Bb3	Qd79

## Press commission rejects privacy law

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

DEMOCRACY in Britain will be imperilled if the "frontier of freedom between the government and the press" is crossed with the introduction of a privacy law, the Press Complaints Commission tells an enquiry into the future of newspaper regulation today.

In a spirited defence of press self-regulation, submitted to Sir David Calcutt, QC, appointed by the government to conduct the enquiry, the commission said it had demonstrated in the past 18 months "the potentiality of self-regulation to protect people against the power of the press and the press against the power of government."

Citing statistics which reveal little evidence of any serious criticism from readers, the PCC said there had been "a swift and effective response" from newspapers and magazines to demands for an improvement in press standards and conduct. It also highlighted the low number of complaints about intrusions of privacy and harassment.

Only nine per cent of all complaints concerned invasions of privacy and just 1.6 per cent involved harassment. The bulk of the complaints — 67.1 per cent — were about factual inaccuracies. Only 3.1

per cent of the 2,069 complaints received by the PCC in its first 18 months were formally adjudicated, with 23.3 per cent solved directly between editors and complainants. Just 51 complaints (2.5 per cent) were upheld.

The PCC said the stories which have provoked the most political outcry — revelations about the Princess of Wales' marriage and David Mello's affair — did not result in complaints from any of the parties involved.

"It is no function of the press to protect public figures from the consequence of their own behaviour," the report says.

In a powerful assault against a privacy law, the PCC said it would be impossible to reconcile an individual's right to privacy with an individual's right to be informed.

But in a separate submission to Sir David, Louis Blom-Cooper QC, the former Press Council chairman, called for the introduction of a civil privacy statute. Public officials would not be covered by the law, and newspapers would be subject to prior restraint through interlocutory injunctions only if unable to justify publication in the public interest. It would also involve the abolition of criminal libel.

## Pilchard exporter defies EC

By TIM JONES

BRITAIN'S last surviving exporter of pickled pilchards is waiting to see whether his defiance of European Community regulations will close his processing plant and end a 400-year-old tradition.

Nick Howell's effort to please Brussels ended in near disaster when the Italian importer he deals with complained that the fish were no longer edible. Mr Howell runs British Cured Pilchards, in Newlyn, a port which was once the heart of a major pilchard industry in Cornwall, employing thousands.

He was told that the pilchards could no longer be packed in bessian-lined loose-fitting wooden boxes. Mr Howell was ordered to use modern tightly-sealed boxes to prevent contamination from dust.

Tests showed that the new method had altered humidity and salinity, encouraging mould. Mr Howell has reverted to the traditional method.

## Struggling firms drop green image

By MICHAEL MCCARTHY, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

BUSINESS concern for the environment is disappearing under the impact of the recession, a report says today.

Many companies have stopped adapting their operations to reflect green concerns, which they now see as irrelevant, according to a survey of 350 firms in the "golden triangle" of the Thames Valley between Heathrow airport, Basingstoke and Oxford, by the Henley Management College and the accountants Price Waterhouse.

The "green renaissance" of British industry, called for as essential less than 18 months ago by Michael Heseltine, then the environment secretary, appears to have stalled before it got off the ground. Mr Heseltine said that a green edge would be essential for competitive advantage. Increasingly, firms disagree, with 65 per cent of the companies surveyed saying environmental concern was irrelevant or unimportant.

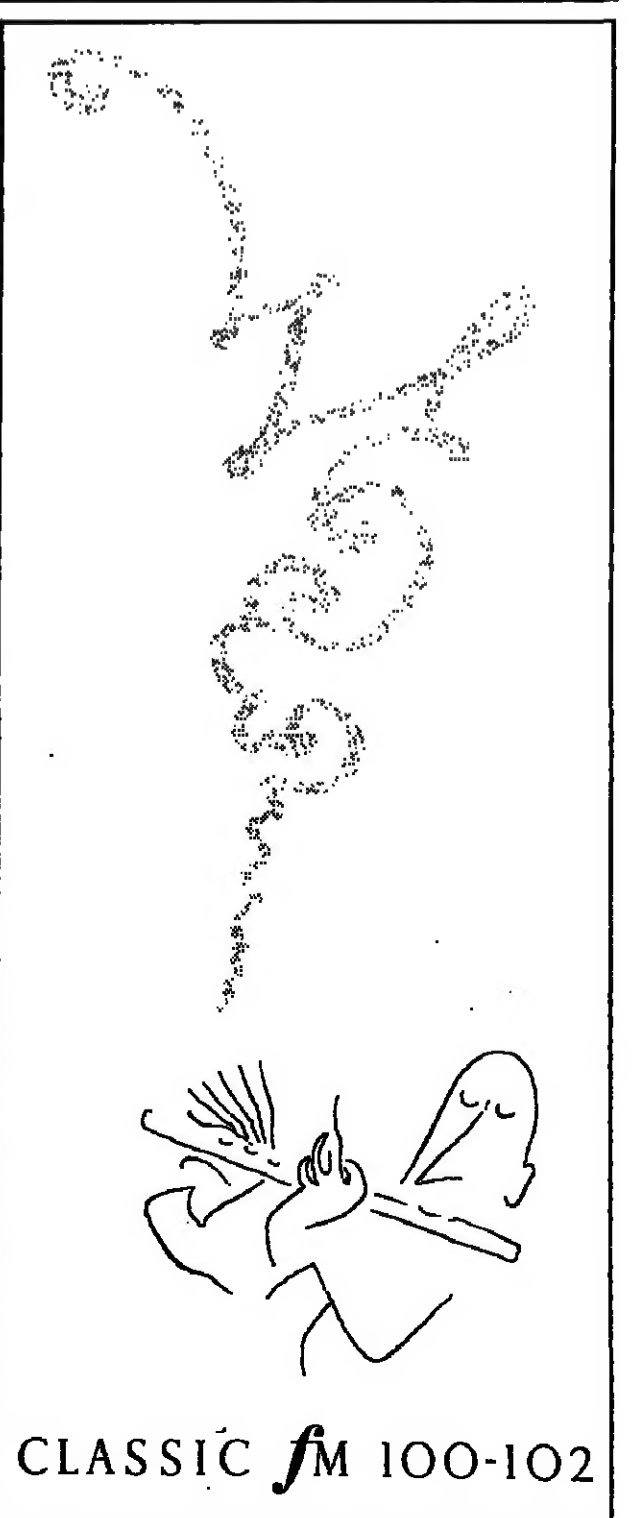
Apart from guarding against possible violations of legislation, companies are not willing to invest heavily in environmental procedures or practices," the report says.

Trends that until two years ago were regarded as

unignorable, such as green consumerism among retailers, environmentally friendly building techniques in the construction industry, and "ethical investment" in the financial services sector, are now viewed with indifference under the pressure of falling profits and rising bankruptcies.

Even such a basic tenet of green consumerism as eco-labelling is being regarded as "generally unimportant" by retailing companies, and the construction industry now gives "little or no importance" to protecting the environment. The report says that in the financial world, despite the surge of interest in recent years in investment in companies considered to be environmentally sound, "no respondent claimed that the environment was important to competitive advantage."

In the past year the proportion of company bosses seeing green concerns as important to their core business has dropped from 48 to 33 per cent. The report says: "This is perhaps unsurprising if one considers that business closures in the Thames Valley area increased by 56 per cent on last year."





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German social  
working-class  
laid to rest i

Wants its  
days  
heated

October 1992



## German socialists' last working-class hero is laid to rest in style

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN IN BERLIN

THE words of Pierre Maurois rang out from another age: "Vive Willy Brandt! Vive L'Internationale Socialiste!" This echo from the barricades was delivered to a gathering of Social Democrat leaders on Saturday after Brandt's funeral in Berlin's luxurious Kempinski Hotel.

This was ironic, but not inappropriate. Brandt, the illegitimate son of a Bremen shop girl, was the last working-class outsider in the party. Raised in the radical Socialist Youth Movement under Weimar, he was also the last democratic representative of the fighting tradition of European socialism. Another old fighter from the Weimar period, Erich Honecker, is dying a few miles away in Moabit prison.

One of Brandt's great services in Berlin after 1945 was to draw a clear line between social democracy and communism which led to Honecker's regime — a line which at that time was often unclear. The first leader in this struggle was Ernst Reuter, Brandt's predecessor as Social Democrat mayor of Berlin.

In 1948, as Stalin blockaded West Berlin, Reuter appealed to its citizens: "In these circumstances, we do not simply ask you to have confidence in us. Rather we ask you to have confidence in yourselves." This principle marked Brandt's whole life, and was echoed in his declaration to

the Bundestag when he became chancellor in 1969 that his aim was "to dare more democracy". On Saturday, he was buried beside Reuter in Zehlendorf cemetery. The inscription on his grave read: "He took the trouble."

Reuter's son, Edzard Reuter, was present at the funeral. He is a Social Democrat, but he is also the chairman of Daimler-Benz, Germany's mightiest corporation. This, like the well-dressed gathering in the Kempinski, is a sign of how social democracy in West Germany shed its working-class identity and moved into the system, a process to which Brandt contributed greatly.

However, if Brandt had simply been a social democratic pragmatist like Helmut Schmidt, he could never have won over so many radical youths. Critical in this was not just Brandt's frequently radical approach to world problems, but precisely his identity as an outsider: detached, melancholic, thin-skinned and often self-doubting.

Some admirers of this side of Brandt may have been put off by the military state ceremony at his funeral. He himself, however, wished for a state funeral not just in Berlin but in the Reichstag, possibly because of events involving two other German leaders there. Both were men who under Weimar tried to strengthen democracy at home while reconciling Germany with her former enemy: Walther Rathenau (a Jew and therefore an outsider), the foreign minister assassinated by rightwingers, and Gustav Stresemann, the chancellor who took Germany into the League of Nations and who, if he had lived, might have stopped Hitler's rise to power.

An awareness of this forgotten history is what gave Brandt and some other German politicians their moral seriousness. Richard von Weizsäcker, the German president, said in his funeral address that Brandt had "succeeded in something which often goes wrong in Germany, in bridging the gap between

power and spirit, in uniting authority and morality".

However, the line between moral seriousness and hypocrisy can be pretty thin. The unification of Germany has set a test for Germans, including Brandt's successors on the left, in living up to their frequent declarations of high principle, and so far the results have been dismal. A classic example came at the media trade union congress this weekend. On the one hand, there were militant pacifist declarations that German soldiers must never be used as United Nations peacekeepers. On the other, a motion calling for west German branches to make financial sacrifices to help branches in the east was indefinitely postponed. Brandt might have been saddened by such a divide, but he would hardly have been surprised. As Eberhard Diepgen, the present mayor of Berlin, said: "Willy Brandt was an idealist without illusions."



Brandt: "an idealist without illusions"

## EC maintains its secretive ways by a subtle craft

Despite complaints from the Danes and others, the Community's great and good are fighting shy of opening their horse-trading to the eyes and judgment of the public

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS

THE wording of a statement issued from the European Community's Birmingham summit on greater "transparency" could hardly have been more cautious.

The 12 foreign ministers will "suggest ways ... of opening up the work of the Community's institutions, including the possibility of some open Council discussion". The EC is not racing towards a freedom of information directive.

That communiqué was agreed behind closed doors, the product of an arcane and subtle craft of 12-dimensional compromise which has become the hobby of an entire generation of Europe's public servants. Pushed by a Danish government that wants to ratify the Maastricht Treaty in spite of this summer's rejection in Denmark, the EC's great and good are nervously peering at the vile prospect of opening their horse-trading to public view. The vast majority of Eurocrats hate the buzzword "transparency".

Danish opposition parties are voicing a widespread complaint that the EC is an opaque, inaccessible, unaccountable machine for generating bizarre laws which attempt to regulate the maximum curvature of a cucumber. The Danish "June Movement", set up in the euphoric aftermath of the Denmark's "No" vote that month, wants draft EC legislation published before it even reaches EC ambassadors, let alone national ministers. It also wants all ministerial meetings to be open unless closed by a unanimous vote and, whether closed or open, minutes of meetings should always record which way countries vote.

Compare that radical agenda with John Major's counter-offer. He proposed at Birmingham that half a day's

talk in the foreign ministers' council should be in public twice a year. Not even that cosmetic change was adopted.

The closing of ranks against real public scrutiny is only partly explained by defensive reflexes. The cause lies in the development of the Community's machinery over the past 35 years.

Twelve governments can only build delicate compromises if they can present the end result as a success. Final decisions often involve isolating and then squeezing a lone, dissenting minister. When the opposition has been rolled over, the victorious majority will throw in a consolation concession or two and agree not to inflame domestic opposition in the defeated country.

Officials who oil and operate this intricate machinery think that publicity will paralyse their work. "Decisions on the most difficult and important issues will be harder if not impossible," one senior EC diplomat said. "But there is a real wind of change behind the call for openness — God help us."

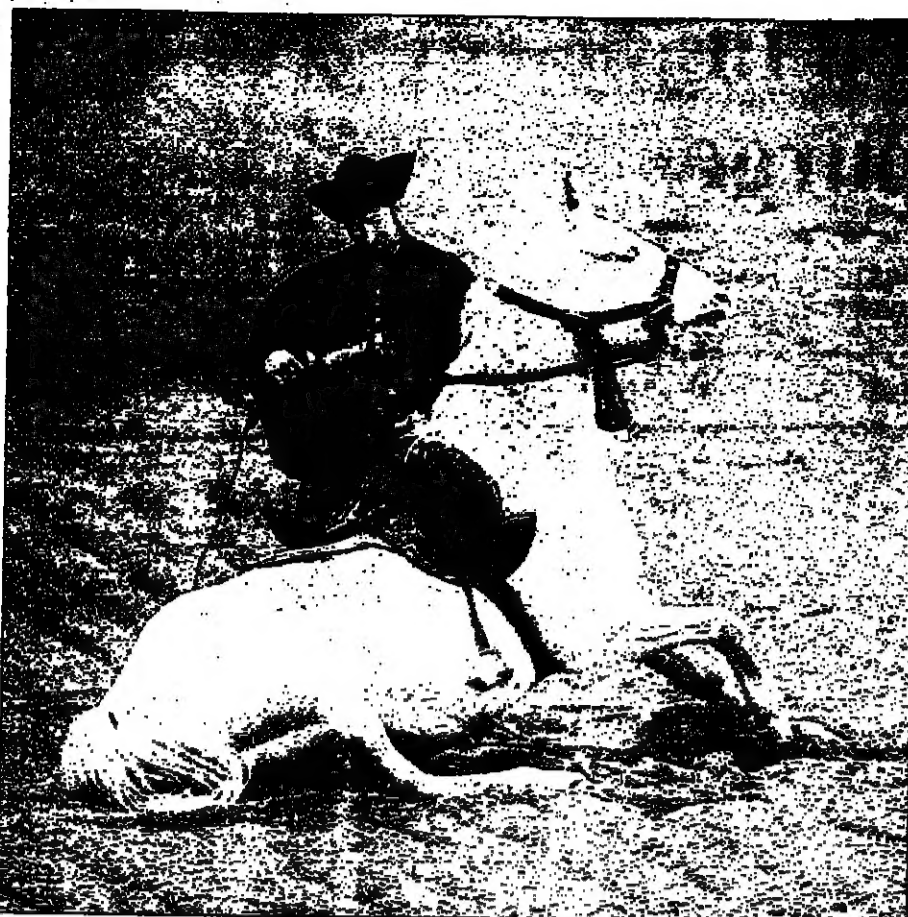
EC institutions are habitually indiscreet. Few documents leak from either the Court of Justice or the financial watchdog, the Court of Auditors. But smudgy photocopies of memos from inside both the Commission and the Council of Ministers litter journalists' desks at any major EC meeting.

An early draft of the Birmingham declaration was leaked by one of the governments opposed to a tough definition of "subsidiarity" favoured by Britain. With two versions available, the hostile governments were able to point to the places where Mr Major's wording had been watered down.

Letters, page 15

## Lippizaners prance to the end of royal road

FROM ERNEST BECK IN SZILVASVARAD



Fallen from grace: recession threatens the future of the luxury breed

DESPITE their international popularity, Hungary's famous Lippizaner horses, whose royal lineage dates back centuries, could soon be prancing their way to the local glue factory ... or even worse. Caught between a market economy and shrinking subsidies, the pampered white stallions may end up as the main ingredient of a Hungarian gastronomic specialty known as horse salami.

According to Andor Dallos, director of the Lippizaner state breeding farm here, "low quality" horses have already been sent for slaughter to raise money before budget cuts take effect. With the economy in recession and tens of thousands unemployed, the Government cannot pay the price to keep the horses in luxury.

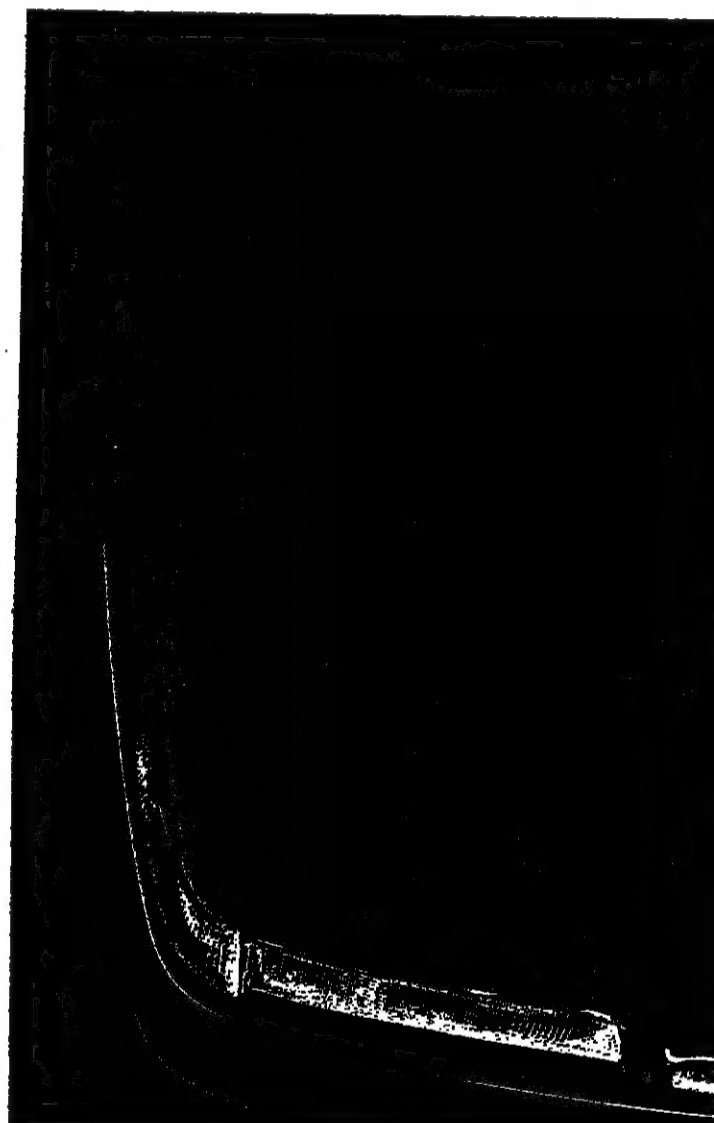
Under communism, the Lippizaners led a charmed life and never knew hard times. They grazed in green pastures, were groomed in a barn belonging to a former baron, and travelled the world for special shows at a time when most Hungarians could not dream crossing the country's barbed wire borders. At home, they were

symbols of Hungary's cultural glory, and entertained visiting comrades like Castro and Khrushchev.

Today, however, the politburos are gone and tourist buses line the main street of town. Quaint wooden carriages drawn by Lippizaners offer rides for £5-an-hour, a far cry from the days when they towed the gilded carriages of Habsburg monarchs. Some horses pull hay wagons, while others can be rented as hacks.

Of Andalusian, Berber and Arabic stock, the Lippizaners were first bred in what is now Slovenia in the 16th century and came to Hungary with Napoleon. Nowadays it is hard to find a job for such a noble breed. They are too slow for racing and too plump to jump in a steeplechase. About 50 have been sold off for about £6,000 each, to horse enthusiasts around the world.

Whatever happens, Mr Dallos is certain the horses will survive. "They have lived through Napoleon, two world wars, and frequent changes of regime, and I'm sure they can endure capitalism," he says.



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# Peking reformers and hardliners axed in even-handed purge

Deng Xiaoping scored a slim victory in elections to the besieged party's central committee, whose average age is now even higher

FROM CATHERINE SAMPSON IN PEKING

CHINA'S Communist party overhauled its central committee yesterday, purging both hardliners and liberals in what appeared to be a compromise between conservatives and the radical reform faction led by the senior leader, Deng Xiaoping.

Three powerful hardliners involved in propaganda, who were criticised by Mr Deng earlier this year for failing to encourage reform, have been dropped. But three men who until now stayed on the central committee despite their liberal sympathies at the time of the Tiananmen Square demonstrations have also been re-

moved. While the new line-up represents a limited victory for Mr Deng, 88, and his reform programme, the hardliners who hold the two most powerful positions, Li Peng, the prime minister, and Jiang Zemin, the general secretary, remain.

The elections took place behind closed doors. Party delegates were later shown on the evening television news casting their vote into large red ballot boxes, each emblazoned with a hammer and sickle.

Foreign journalists were, however, allowed in to the Great Hall of the People to

witness the party voting on Mr Jiang's work report and three other policy reports. This proved to be a display of democracy Chinese-style.

Although there are electronic voting facilities available in the Great Hall of the People, the leadership appeared to have decided that in front of the foreign press it was not safe to offer delegates the option of expressing their objections through the anonymity of an electronic vote. So the voting was by a show of hands.

For each vote, the master of ceremonies first asked those in favour to raise their hands. Each time every hand in the house went up. Then he asked for any votes against, paused, looked round the hall as if genuinely expecting to see a hand raised in opposition, and finally pronounced: "None. Abstentions? None. Everything was passed unanimously, and Mr Jiang announced that the congress had been concluded 'successfully'.

The new central committee was elected on the last day of the party's five-yearly congress. It was the first such congress since the Tiananmen Square demonstrations and the fall of communism in most of the rest of the world, and has presented the image of a party under siege.

The party shied away from any concession to democratisation and only half-heartedly endorsed faster economic reform.

The new central committee will hold a plenum today to elect the new politburo and its standing committee. Like the central committee, these are expected to reflect compromise.

Hardliners purged from the central committee included Gao Di, editor of the party newspaper *People's Daily*; Wang Renzhi, head of the propaganda department; and He Jingzhi, acting minister of culture.

Among the liberals dropped were Wang Meng, former minister of culture, who last year took hardliners to court for libel and lost. Also, Yan Mingfu and Rui Xingwen, both of vice-ministerial level.

Almost half the 189 members of the central committee are new. The official Xinhua news agency boasted that 61 per cent of the new faces were below the age of 55 and that this showed the Communist party was "full of vigour and vitality and has a train of successors".

In fact, the average age of the central committee, 56.3, is older than the average age of the last central committee, which was 55. Only 7.5 per cent are women.

□ **New York:** Russia has sold missiles, fighter jets, tanks and nuclear technology this year to China, a long-time Soviet adversary. US officials claimed in a report published yesterday. The *New York Times* quoted unidentified officials in Washington as saying the deals are undermining efforts to stop the spread of arms to the Third World. (AP)



Model appeal: the international model woman, wife of the musician David Bowie, yesterday spoke of her "emotional agony" when she returned to Somalia, the country of her birth, for the first time in 20 years to take part in a BBC documentary. She said she wanted to put "a face on the pain" caused by the civil war and famine in Somalia. More than 300,000

people have died as a starving population became caught between warring factions. Iman's convoy was caught in cross-fire during the eight-day trip organised by the International Committee of the Red Cross. "Nothing prepared me for what I saw," she said. The documentary, to be broadcast this week, shows a mother with three small malnourished children, whose

husband has been killed, sobbing on the model's shoulder. "It touched me in more ways than I can say. Nobody has cried out in the camp — pain has been sat upon," she said. Iman lived in the Somali capital, Mogadishu, until she and her family fled when she was 17. Her modelling career began when she was discovered while a student at Nairobi university.

## Unita challenged to give up its arms

FROM SAM KILEY IN LUANDA

THE ANGOLAN government threw down the gauntlet to the former rebel movement, Unita, and challenged it to the weekend to demobilise its forces ahead of a second round of presidential elections.

President dos Santos's Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola won control of the legislature in the country's first free elections, but as he failed to win more than 50 per cent of the presidential ballot, Jonas Savimbi, the Unita leader, will contest a second round.

But the MPLA said the second round would only go ahead if Unita abided by the peace accord signed in Portugal last year under which both armies are to be disbanded and a national force set up. Soon after the polls closed last month, Unita soldiers left demobilisation camps while Unita generals in the new national army deserted to rejoin Dr Savimbi in Huambo.

Low-intensity fighting between government and Unita soldiers broke out in the

capital, Luanda, and the Unita stronghold of Huambo at the weekend after official publication of the results. Margaret Anstee, head of the United Nations monitoring mission to Angola, said that the election had been "generally fair" and that Unita's allegations of fraud could not be substantiated.

"There was no evidence of major, systematic or widespread fraud, or that the irregularities were of a magnitude to have a significant effect on the results," she said. Miss Anstee has won widespread praise for keeping both sides talking, despite Dr Savimbi's threat to plunge Angola back into the civil war which ceased last May after 16 years, leaving at least 350,000 dead.

But diplomats and some members of both parties believe that a wider role for the United Nations in Angola, and in future peacekeeping efforts in Africa, is essential. A senior Zimbabwean diplomat here said: "Somalia, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Angola and Zaire are faced with the chaos left behind by the end of the Cold War. The US [which backed Unita] and the Soviet Union [which backed the MPLA] fought their wars by proxy in Africa. Now as these wars come to an end the UN has to step in and ensure that they can be resolved and the countries move towards multi-party democracy."

Last month the two sides in the Mozambique civil war signed a peace accord which calls for elections within a year and demobilisation of combatants. But experts fear it is unrealistic to expect men who were enemies for over a decade to trust each other and conduct elections fairly. In Angola, much of Unita's

50,000-man force has re-mobilised while about 60 per cent of the government's 100,000 troops have returned to civilian life. This year the UN's Angolan operation has cost \$120 million (£75 million).

"The international community should be prepared to spend more on these sort of efforts. When a country has been at civil war, the concept of sovereignty has to go out the window. That means the UN should not monitor but supervise in every detail the electoral process," said one Western diplomat.

□ **Harare:** A planned Organisation of African Unity mission to Angola to mediate in the dispute over the election results has been postponed. Salim Ahmed Salim, the OAU secretary-general, announced here. He said this had been decided after consultations with the Angolan authorities and in the light of negotiations already under way in the country, a reference to those brokered by Roelof "Erik" Botha, the South African foreign minister. The delegation was to have been led by President Mugabe of Zimbabwe. (AFP)

## Police occupy Sikh temple

Delhi: The Golden Temple in Amritsar was occupied by more than 1,000 police yesterday in an attempt to keep the Sikhs' holiest shrine out of the hands of armed Punjabi separatists. The development is a bleak omen for the prospects of peace in India's most violent state (Christopher Thomas writes).

The move came hours before a service honouring two Sikhs who were hanged ten days ago for the murder of General A. S. Vaidya, the former army chief. He commanded the troops who stormed the temple during Operation Blue Star in June 1984. That raid led to the assassination four months later of Indira Gandhi, the prime minister. The new development also threatens to reawaken the Sikh independence movement, which has been petering out after more than a decade of violence.

Roads to Amritsar were sealed off throughout yesterday. Tens of thousands of people were turned back and only about 300 friends and relatives were able to attend the memorial service. The hardline Punjab police chief K. P. S. Gill banned politicians from the ceremony.

## Zulus defy law

Johannesburg: South African police said they might prosecute Chief Mangosuthu Buthezi after a march here in which Zulu supporters of his Inkatha Freedom Party defied a new ban on carrying traditional weapons in public.

## Barter agreed

Kiev: A huge barter deal has been agreed under which Ukraine will supply India with military hardware and training in exchange for medicine and textiles. Ukraine had originally demanded payment in hard currency.

## Plea for help

Cairo: Egypt has appealed for international help to save 130 medieval mosques and churches damaged by last week's earthquake. It has also asked for specialist assistance in inspecting hundreds of Pharaonic monuments.

## Out of bounds

Guatemala City: Rigoberta Menchú, the South American Indian rights activist who won the 1992 Nobel Peace Prize, has declared the Mayan archaeological site of Kaminal Juyu, in the Guatemala capital, a sacred place out of bounds to excavators.

## Accord at risk

Ottawa: Opinion polls indicate that Canadians will reject a constitutional accord aimed at healing divisions between English-speaking and French-speaking regions. In a referendum on October 26.

## Winning habit

Sacramento: A nun who took a vow of poverty 54 years ago has won \$1 million (£600,000) in a California state lottery. Sister Josephine Contris, 71, said the money would go to the Sisters of Saint Francis retirement home here. (AFP)

## Yeltsin heads off plot to topple him

FROM ANNE McELVOY IN MOSCOW

THREE senior members of President Yeltsin's reform team said at the weekend that the Russia's reforms were under concerted threat from enemies right and left and called for a postponement of the Congress of Peoples' Deputies, scheduled for December.

Mikhail Poteranian, information minister, Anatoli Chubais, head of the privatisation programme, and Gennadi Burbulis, state secretary and aide to Mr Yeltsin, joined forces to tell Western journalists that they believed the Congress, which has the power to dismiss the government, should be put off until next year to avoid the risk of a sudden reversal of the radical reform policy. The Yeltsin team will ask parliament this week to reconsider its decision to call the congress in December.

The move indicates Mr Yeltsin's increasing concern at the number of forces ranged against him in parliament and the depressed mood in the country. By asking for a reconsideration of the congress, his supporters are admitting that they see a sizeable risk that the Russian leader, or at least his prime minister and architect of reform, Yegor Gaidar, could fall victim to a no-confidence vote.

Fears of a plot against Mr Yeltsin led by the hardline military, industrialists and rump communists have been circulating for several weeks, but this is the clearest indication yet that the government fears for its survival. Russia's economic reform programme is running aground as pressure from the so-called centrist lobby of the vast military-industrial complex grows.

The three politicians named the maverick parliament chairman, Ruslan Khasbulatov, as one of the main movers in the anti-Yeltsin cabal, but it can be

assumed that they also fear Anatoli Volsky, a former member of the Central Committee who heads the industrialists' lobby, and Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoi.

Despite freeing prices and beginning to privatise the country's enterprises, hyper-inflation now threatens at the time most dangerous to the government — the beginning of winter. The Russian leader must have felt a political, as well as a physical, chill when the first flurry of snow arrived last week.

In an attempt to reassure the West, and notably the IMF, that the reforms are still being enacted, the government announced at the weekend that it would privatise the country's huge oil industry in the hope of reversing the steep decline in production and luring investment, but even this announcement was accompanied by assurances that the process would be gradual with the state maintaining a controlling interest in the oil industry for some time.

There have been several indications over the last weeks that Mr Yeltsin feels he has to limit reforms to avoid a challenge to his power, including his promise to reshuffle the cabinet and giving control of an ill-defined but powerful anti-corruption unit to Mr Rutskoi. The influence of those who prefer a slower transformation to the market is growing.

□ **Intelligence deal:** Russia and America have agreed to end 40 years of Cold war hostility with a deal on limited co-operation of their intelligence services reached in a meeting between Robert Gates, director of the Central Intelligence Agency, and President Yeltsin.

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## Renewed Serb mortar attack thwarts distribution of UN aid in Sarajevo

BY DESSA TREVISAN IN BELGRADE AND ADAM LEBOR IN ZAGREB

RELIEF supplies flown into Sarajevo again yesterday after a deal between the United Nations and Bosnian forces. The reopening of the airport road, however, coincided with the fiercest Serb mortar attack on the capital of Bosnia-Herzegovina in ten days, so that the aid could not be distributed.

Scores of people were reported to have been injured and five mortar shells hit one of Sarajevo's main hospitals. The airport road had been blocked by Bosnian forces who claimed that the UN had allowed Serb tanks to use it. The UN denied this but said they would place armoured personnel carriers along the road by day and the Bosnians would close it at night.

Fighting was reported on every front in Bosnia at the weekend and Bosnian radio reported that 70 per cent of Olovo, north of Sarajevo, had been demolished in rocket shelling. Belgrade radio reported that Ejup Ganic, one of the Bosnian leaders, had mounted a coup of "radicals"



to overthrow the government of President Izetbegovic. Mr Ganic denied this and Haris Silajdzic, Bosnia's foreign minister, said in a telephone interview from Geneva: "They are lying, as always. It's part of the propaganda war."

Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, said: "We're watching the situation very closely. Some drama is going on, but it will be short-lived like everything with the Muslims ... except for their hatred of Serbs."

Mr Izetbegovic will hold his first formal meeting with Dobrica Cosic, the Yugoslav president, in Geneva tomorrow. When asked whether he was optimistic about the outcome of the meeting, Mr Silajdzic said: "A gigantic crime is taking place in Bosnia-Herzegovina. If that can

be stopped by political means all the better, but so far it seems only force can stop it." The continuing difficulties in distributing aid in Sarajevo mean that Zagreb, the Croatian capital, has become the main conduit for the increasing amounts of Muslim humanitarian supplies. At least 21 Islamic aid groups are operating in Croatia and Bosnia.

There are more shadowy undercurrents as well. Zagreb has become a liaison point for attempted arms trafficking from the Middle East to Bosnia's beleaguered Muslims. Just over a month ago an Iranian aircraft loaded with arms was seized at Zagreb airport, reportedly after a tip-off from American intelligence. There have also been reports that Islamic fighters from countries such as Saudi Arabia are fighting with the Bosnian army, possibly allied to a special Muslim brigade based in the city of Travnik. Serb officials in Banjaluka, the main town in Serb-occupied Bosnia, claim to have a Saudi Arabian passport, supposedly taken from the body of a soldier who had fought with the Bosnians.

## Intrepid cyclist stranded

Dubrovnik: When Vladimir Ketov, a Russian, tried to cycle across the Croatian front lines through a minefield towards the Yugoslav army dug in near Dubrovnik, his reception was brusque. Amazed Croatian soldiers sent him back down the road (Adam Lebor writes).

"The Yugoslavs said the Croats would kill me, they said the Croats said the Serbs would shoot me," he said, "but I've cycled 500 miles down the coast, and I'm still alive."

Mr Ketov set off from St Petersburg in May 1991, on a ten-year, 136,700-mile bike ride around the coast of every continent, prepared for the usual cycling hazards. Flat tyres, slipped chains, aching legs — none of these delayed him for long. But the Balkan war has proved trickier, and now he is stranded in Dubrovnik.

## Despondent minority relive past on Kosovo's holy field

FROM TIM JUDAH IN KOSOVO POLJE

SMOKE rises above the battlefield. Six hundred and three years after the Turks defeated the Serbs on the plain of Kosovo Polje another Serb army has taken up position.

Scarf soldiers cook around their tents; tanks wait in silent readiness. Their cannons are aimed at Pristina, capital of the overwhelmingly Albanian populated southern Serb province of Kosovo. It is a Yugoslav army only in name. Kosovo is 90 per cent ethnic Albanian now, but the army is almost exclusively Serb.

It was here in 1389 that the Serbs suffered their greatest defeat, a battle which led to 500 years of Ottoman rule. Since then the battlefield has been a holy site for Serbs. It is the focal point of the province they say they will never give up to Albanian nationalists.

Serbs in Kosovo who, thanks to the help of Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian president, wrenched the whip-hand of control from ethnic Albanians three years ago, are no longer in triumphal, let alone martial mood. They are depressed, despondent and resigned to war only as a last

resort. Last Thursday's peace overtures by Milan Panic, the Yugoslav prime minister, to ethnic Albanian leaders only served to underscore their unease.

"My hair stood on end," said Drenjinka Pavlovic, a hospital ward sister, commenting on the televised embrace Mr Panic gave to Ibrahim Rugova, the ethnic Albanian leader. "How could he do such a thing? Embracing a secessionist is too much."

Ethnic Albanian leaders are demanding independence for Kosovo and talk of eventual union with Albania. Serbs dismiss this as impossible and say they will fight. But few believe that war is imminent or that the Albanians will start one unless they are armed from abroad.

In 1961 Serbs made up more than 23 per cent of Kosovo's population. They were also the masters of Kosovo.

From 1968 power slipped from their hands and the new ethnic Albanian overlords put Serbs firmly in their place. Mr Milosevic gave power back to the Serbs but a high Albanian

birthrate and Serb emigration mean that they now represent barely 10 per cent of the population.

When Mr Milosevic returned power to the Serbs, thousands of Albanians were sacked from their jobs and more quit in protest. Mr Panic has inflamed fears that the traditional master-servant role is about to change again.

Budimir Savic was promoted to director of his civil engineering firm when his Albanian boss was sacked. Mr Savic said: "If they get the jobs again by law, then there will be no life for Serbs here. They will demand Kosovo's independence and we'll either have to leave or it will be war."

But Mr Savic believes his company faces a far more immediate danger — closure due to international sanctions. Nevertheless, Mr Milosevic, the man most widely blamed for sanctions and their continued imposition, remains the most popular leader for Kosovo Serbs. "If it wasn't for Milosevic we wouldn't be here," said Mr Savic. "He gave us hope. That's why we could survive."



# Quayle, the winner on a losing ticket, thinks of 1996



Looking to the future: Dan Quayle may already have his sights set on the race in four years' time

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER  
ON AIR FORCE TWO IN TEXAS

DAN QUAYLE, the vice-president, flew into the Texas heartland over the weekend in an attempt to help an increasingly beleaguered President Bush make a last-minute comeback in a campaign that has only two weeks to run. But the Quayle entourage appears to have conceded that the Bush-Quayle ticket may be doomed and, during an interview in his cabin, Mr Quayle thought he was clearly on the next election, in 1996.

How, I asked, did he usually respond when asked if he would seek the Republican presidential nomination in 1996? "The standard answer is that we are focusing on 1992 and then we will think about the years after that," Mr Quayle replied. But what was the honest answer? "We avoid the question," said the vice-president, a broad grin spreading across his still youthful face.

Mr Quayle had spent the day hopping from the 59th annual rose parade in the little Texas town of Tyler to Fort Hood army base to a "pig fest" in Harker Heights. He talked of how Mr Bush would fight on till the very last vote was counted, and insisted voters would still

Long derided, the vice-president has emerged as a defiant and doughty campaigner, with a fighting chance next time around

conclude Bill Clinton was just too great a risk. But in truth, few on his plane retained many illusions.

One senior official revealed how Mr Quayle, out of superstition, always visited the dentist after casting his vote on election days. This year, he joked, it would get all the pain out of the way at once. Mr Bush was "mystified" by the electorate's rejection of him. The Republicans had pretty much exhausted their lines of attack. The imperative now was to shore up the party's conservative base to prevent a "debacle".

But instead of despondency, there was almost a sense of euphoria on Air Force Two. The vice-president was a "pretty happy camper," said the official. For although Mr Quayle was on the winning ticket in 1988, he had been in every other sense the loser. Now he is on the losing ticket, but in many ways the winner.

Ever since that miserable 1988 campaign the vice-president has been mocked and derided, sometimes — as when he mispelled "potato" — justifiably. Right up to the Republicans' August conven-

tion, detractors had been demanding his removal from the ticket. But starting with his defiant speech to that convention, Mr Quayle has unquestionably turned the tables. It is certainly not he who is now the drag on the ticket. No one will blame him for the defeat. The targets will be the president himself and Mr Quayle's old antagonist, James Baker, head of the hapless Bush campaign.

Such vitality as there has been has come from Mr Quayle, with his attacks on Hollywood, the "cultural elite", and the legal profession. His high-voltage performance in last Tuesday's vice-presidential debate gave Republican morale its first real boost, though it was quickly dashed by Mr Bush's passive performance two days later. While Mr Bush has been inconsistent and lacklustre, Mr Quayle has aggressively promoted a relatively coherent conservative agenda. And here he was, 16 days before the election, campaigning to bolster Mr Bush in the president's own state.

"Except for the polls," observed the shirt-sleeved vice-

president, relaxing in his swivel chair, "everything is going well."

Mr Quayle was still elated by his debate performance. In 1988 he had blown his vice-presidential debate with Lloyd Bentsen, Michael Dukakis's running-mate. "The pressure was unbelievable for me," he said. "Either I was going to wipe the slate clean, or I was going to be characterised for a lot longer the way I was in 1988. I think I rose to the challenge and I feel very good about it." He added: "There's no doubt we were able to energise our base."

The day after the debate he was welcomed like a hero at the White House, appearing publicly with Mr Bush for the first time since August 21. In Texas on Saturday the crowds held up signs declaring "Quayle 10, Gore 0" and "Hit 'em again, Dan." Mr Quayle, dressed in check shirt, jeans, cowboy boots and a big leather belt inscribed "Dan Quayle, vice-president", waved and pumped hands with relish.

He had always enjoyed campaigning, he said. "I had some fun in 1988. Not a

whole lot. I can remember a day or two." An aide observed that he had "got the burden off his back that has dogged him over the last four years."

Bitter recriminations and a battle for the party's future direction, are bound to follow defeat, and Mr Quayle gave every impression during the interview of a man who was determined to be out ahead.

He had served the president to the best of his ability, he said. He had raised more money than "any vice-president ever". He had spoken out on substantive issues, had stood up for the wishes of Republican activists, and had made "a very solid contribution to our party". He had developed a "conservative opportunity agenda" based on such concepts as empowerment of the poor, choice in education and health care, and much greater individual responsibility.

Reporters are meanwhile being discreetly reminded that Mr Quayle had opposed Mr Bush's abandonment of his "no new taxes" pledge, and pressed for a much more robust domestic agenda in that post-Gulf war period when Mr Bush's re-election looked a mere formality and the administration was on automatic pilot. His views at that time "didn't prevail", an official said with an evident

sense of vindication. Mr Quayle has obvious imperfections as a politician and is certainly no heavyweight, but he has emerged defiant, unbowed — and surprisingly unembittered from four years of merciless punishment.

While others have run for the long grass, while Mr Baker has appeared to be missing in action, he has kept scrapping to the last. He has kept faith with his conservative base. He has proved himself a survivor, and few of his weekend media entourage believed this was his last campaign, though he must find a way to maintain a high profile for the next four years.

As Air Force Two sped back to Washington early yesterday, they recalled a clip from the biographical film of the vice-president screened at the Republican convention. It showed him learning to roller-skate as an infant. He fell and he fell, but he always got up. Athens: Bill Clinton was quoted yesterday as telling the Greek newspaper *To Vima* that Turkish troops should withdraw from Cyprus so that the Mediterranean island could be reunited. "A just solution in the Cyprus problem presupposes the withdrawal of Turkish occupation forces," Mr Clinton was quoted as saying. (Reuters)

Democrats warn against euphoria

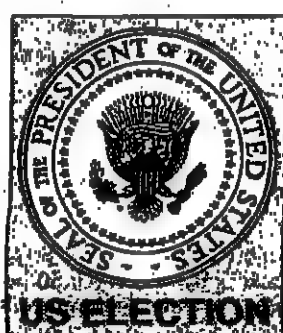
## Clinton plans raid on Republican bastions

Aides admit Mr Bush is increasingly unsure of himself, and at a rally a testy president seemed to confuse hecklers with his opponent

FROM JAMIE DETTMER IN WASHINGTON

BIOYED by Bill Clinton's success in the presidential debate in Richmond, Virginia Democrats were almost basking over the champagne at the weekend to celebrate what they now believe is an inevitable election victory. As the Clinton camp urged supporters to avoid complacency, President Bush's aides privately acknowledged that he was becoming increasingly unsure of himself.

The grim, almost fatalistic Republican mood gained little relief from a poll published in *Nesweek* magazine at the weekend, which suggested that Mr Clinton now holds a 15 per cent lead over the president. The survey, which gave Mr Bush only 31 per cent of the vote and Mr Clinton 46 per cent, with Ross Perot trailing on 14 per cent, emphasised the mountain Mr Bush has to climb to swing the



US ELECTION

election round in the final two weeks of the campaign.

Republican pollsters agree that there is a national trend in favour of Mr Clinton and expressed the fear that the Grand Old Party will have difficulty getting its voters out on polling day. "If there is a sense out there on or around November 3 that George Bush can't win, I really worry about what can happen to us

on turnout," Eddie Mahe, a Republican consultant, said.

A survey by *Hotline*, the respected political newsletter, suggests that Mr Clinton is on target to win 26 states and to pick up 318 electoral college votes. The newsletter believes that Mr Bush is ahead in 11 states and could win 102 college votes. Thirteen states, with 118 college votes, are too close to call. A second needs 270 college votes to win.

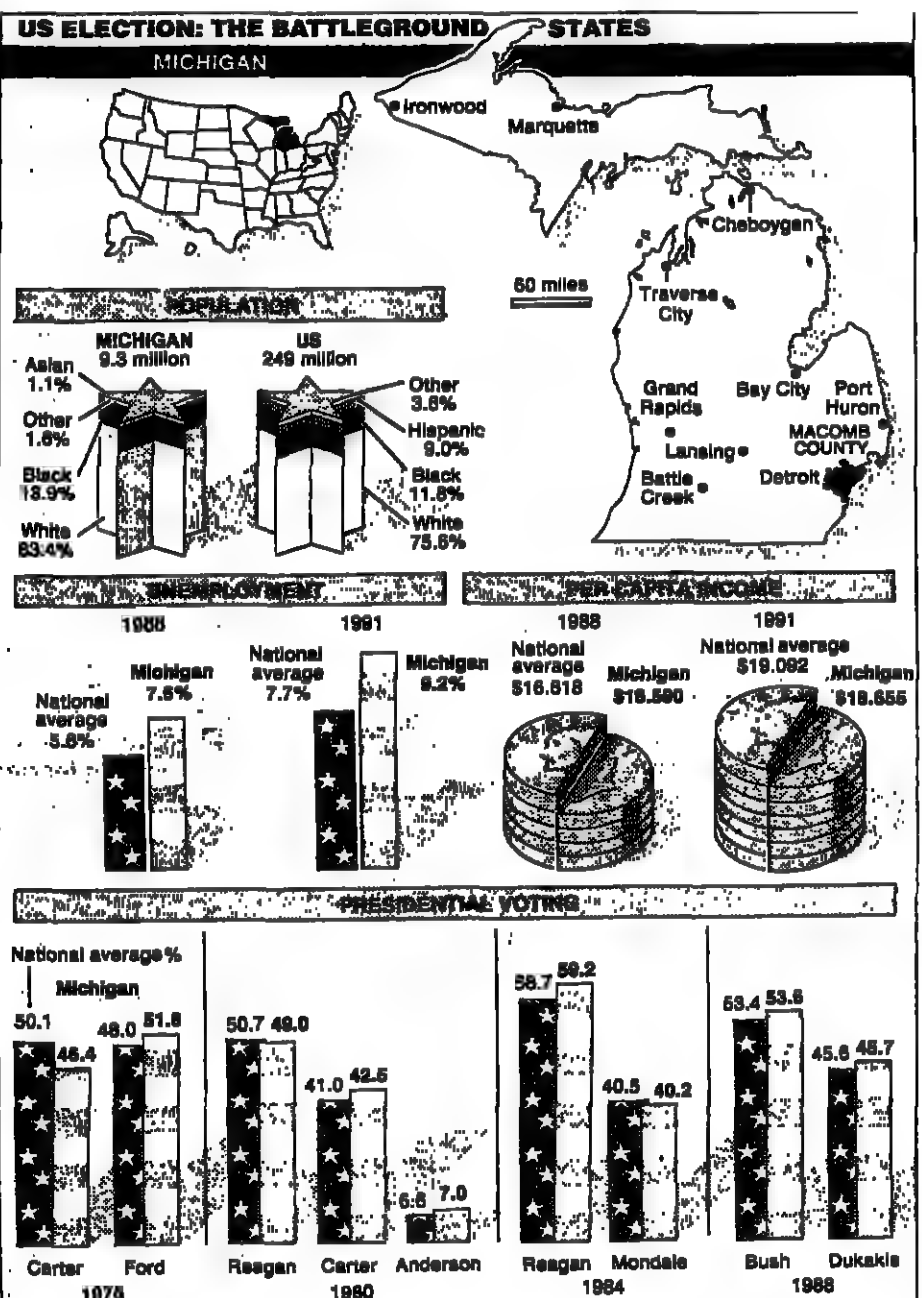
It also emerged at the weekend that foreign diplomats stationed in Washington were given a blunt prediction during a State Department briefing that Mr Clinton would be the next president. Although the Clinton camp said on Saturday that there should be no talk of a landslide, the growing aspirations of the governor's aides became clear yesterday when they announced that their candidate would visit the Republican bedrock states of Nevada and Wyoming after tonight's final presidential debate in East Lansing, Michigan.

Although the Clinton camp claims that these states are now winnable, the main objective of the trip appears to be to undermine the Republicans and to pin them down in states where support for Mr Bush should be assured. The Republicans cling to the hope that the "character issue" will prove to be Mr Clinton's fatal flaw and campaign managers said that there would be no let-up in the last 15 days of electioneering by Mr Bush on the theme of the governor's alleged untrustworthiness.

Senior Republicans are clearly keen for Mr Bush to strike hard at Mr Clinton during tonight's debate. Jack Hawke, chairman of the North Carolina Republican party, said his members want to see the president, "take the gloves off. They want to see us mix it up. They think Bill Clinton is vulnerable."

On Saturday, the president, angered by a hostile crowd at a rally in New Jersey, did take the gloves off for the first time he accused Mr Clinton of deliberately setting out to evade the Vietnam draft. It was not clear whether Mr Bush meant exactly what he said — deliberate draft evasion is a criminal offence — or whether irritation with hecklers provoked his accusation.

The rally certainly saw an exasperated and testy Mr Bush. His syntax, never one of his strong points, became even more confused than usual and, at one stage he turned on some student hecklers and inexplicably accused them of being "draft-dodgers" as well. Some Republican strategists are still pinning their hopes on the vote for Ross Perot, the independent candidate. They pointed out that it is still unclear whether Mr Perot's supporters will defect from his standard on polling day. If they do, the Republicans argue that it could boost Mr Bush's vote.



## Bitter voters of Motor City turn off Bush 'road to ruin'

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN MACOMB COUNTY, MICHIGAN

IF PRESIDENT Bush needs lessons in blunt speaking before tonight's final presidential debate in East Lansing, Michigan, he should nip across to Macomb County, just north of Detroit.

At the Pumps Bowl the other afternoon, a well-aimed shot by Paul Schubeck sent every skittle flying. It is the sort of destruction that he and his friends hope to wreak on Mr Bush two weeks tomorrow, even though he was the man they helped to elect in 1988. "I'm not just worse off than four years ago," snapped Mr Schubeck, a self-employed carpenter. "I'm worse off than ten years ago. The Republicans are for the rich."

A couple of miles away, Bobby Robertson stood behind the counter of his B&B corner store and vowed that he would never vote for Mr Bush again. "He pulled the wool over our eyes," Mr Robertson said.

Mr Schubeck, Mr Robertson and their ilk are the celebrated "Reagan Democrats" of Michigan's Macomb County; they are the conservative, blue-collar whites who fled from the blacks and the crime of inner Detroit in the 1960s and 1970s to this featureless suburb. In the 1980s, when they felt prosperous and upwardly mobile, the Republicans weaned them from the Democrats by promising tax cuts, smaller government and less pandering to minorities. In 1992 they fear for their futures and are



Humphrey: carried Michigan in 1968

returning to their former party in droves. The swing spells disaster for Mr Bush in a big state with 18 electoral college votes that no Democrat has carried since Hubert Humphrey in 1968.

Macomb County's 300,000 active voters traditionally hold the balance between the industrial Democratic strongholds of Detroit, Flint and Pontiac and Republican upstate Michigan. State opinion polls now put Bill Clinton, the Democratic candidate, nearly 20 points ahead.

These Reagan Democrats are predominantly Roman Catholics of East European origin, but they do not care that Mr Clinton favours a woman's right to choose on abortion or that Mr Bush helped to liberate their ancestral homelands. The only issue that counts here is the

economy. Mr Bush has belatedly bestirred himself.

First, in a brazen policy U-turn, he authorised a \$250 million (£156 million) upgrading of the M1 tank that General Dynamics builds in Macomb County. The Emir of Kuwait then conveniently ordered 236 of the tanks, but it appears to have been too little, too late.

In 1988, Mr Bush pledged 30 million new jobs and no new taxes. Since 1990 Michigan has lost an estimated 137,900 jobs and unemployment has risen to 9.4 per cent. Chrysler, Ford and General Motors, the three car-makers that gave Detroit its Motor City sobriquet, have lost nearly \$8 billion over the past 30 months and are shrinking relentlessly. Mr Bush's insistence last year that there was no recession still causes snorts of derision here and he has now negotiated a North American free trade deal (Nafta) that threatens to spirit Detroit's car factories to low-wage Mexico.

Mr Clinton has discreetly courted the Reagan Democrats by equivocating as long as he could on Nafta, not campaigning in black areas of Detroit, and promising welfare reform — an issue with strong racial undertones. When the local electorate hears Mr Bush's portrayal of Mr Clinton as a "tax and spend" liberal who would make things even worse, many people simply do not believe it is possible.

## Price to be paid for flirting with Rosy Scenario

Irwin Stelzer looks at the repercussions that Bill Clinton's economic plans would have on British trade and interest rates

With a Clinton presidency close at hand, it is not too soon to give serious thought to his plans for funding the Democrats' social and infrastructure schemes.

The methods he chooses will affect not only American taxpayers but also British consumers and business. Just as Germany's decision to finance unification by running a deficit had financial consequences for Britain, so will Mr Clinton's plans for financing what he sees as America's reconstruction.

The first thing to keep in mind is that the Democrats plan to soak the rich will probably prove of little consequence, either in America or for the world economy. The proposed increase of two percentage points in the tax rate on those families earning over \$200,000 (£120,000), the increase in the minimum tax on the wealthy, and the surtax on millionaires are projected to raise approximately \$20 billion a year, to which Mr Clinton hopes he can add a few billion more by eliminating tax breaks.

Since the wealthy have methods of avoiding the worst consequences of such taxes, and since the increases are not significant enough to stifle such work ethic as the rich have, this measure can be viewed as an almost harmless political sop to the left wing of the Democratic party. Indeed, it may permit Mr Clinton to argue that the middle class should now give up some of its "entitlements", since he will have crossed the "fairness" threshold by taxing the rich.

Of greater significance to Britain and European companies is his plan to expand health care and job training programmes in America by making businesses pay for them. Those European and British companies that compete with American firms should reap some benefit from these cost-raising measures. The job training programme will be paid for by a 1.5 per cent tax on payrolls, and the health care plan by something like a 7 per cent tax on business receipts. These measures will drive up business costs here, thereby reducing the competitiveness of American firms.

Mr Clinton is also planning to raise \$3 billion a year by increasing the fines and taxes on corporate polluters, and a few more hundreds of millions by limiting deductions for executive salaries and lobbying expenses. So American firms will face significant cost increases, to the benefit of their foreign competitors. But all is not good news for those competitors. Mr Clinton proposes to collect an additional \$45 billion over four years from corporations in which British or other foreign citizens have at least a 25 per cent stake. This will make America a less attractive place for foreign investment.

Perhaps most important, at least in its consequences for Britain and the rest of the world, is the willingness of the Democrats to increase the level of the US deficit. Mr Clinton knows he can push his spending plans through a compliant Democratic Congress. And he knows, too, that the tax revenues he says he will get from increased growth are unlikely to materialise.

He and his advisers, most notably the liberal Wall Street moguls who have attached themselves to his campaign, are attempting to devise plans that will permit them to increase the current deficit of \$350 billion by \$50-\$100 billion. This apparently reckless reversion to Keynesianism is based on two assumptions.

The first is that expenditure, if used to improve infrastructure and training, will prove to be a sound, long-term investment that will pay for itself several times over. The second is that a credible plan can be concocted to persuade the money markets that the return on these social investments will, in the future, be used to reduce the deficit, rather than to finance still more spending.

Since it is highly unlikely that a Democratic Congress will be able to convince the money men that they really mean to cut the deficit, Mr Clinton's deficit expansion will most likely lead to an increase in long-term interest rates. This will force other countries to keep their own interest rates high unless they are willing to allow their currencies to depreciate against the dollar. So, America is likely to finance its infrastructure improvement as Germany did, by running deficits and keeping interest rates high. Bad news for Britain.

All of this assumes, of course, that the Clinton team is wrong in thinking that they can so quickly stimulate the economy as to produce rapid growth and an increased flow of funds into the Treasury's coffers. Mr Clinton may win his gamble, but most observers doubt it. There is no reason to believe that his flirtation with Rosy Scenario, the vamp who disappointed both Reagan and Bush, will result in a satisfying long-term relationship.

There you have it: the bad economic news for Britain is that Mr Clinton will mean somewhat higher long-term interest rates, both for America and the world. The good news is the prospect of somewhat easier pickings in the American market for those who want to export to it, primarily because the competitiveness of American firms will be reduced, at least in the short run.

Dr Stelzer is a resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington DC and is contributing a weekly column to The Times in the run-up to the American election.



Can couture make a political statement? Brenda Polan reports on a generation of designers reacting against the excesses of the 1980s

## HOT LINE

## To the aid of the party

DESPITE the recession, Paris has not stopped having parties during fashion week. On Wednesday, Bernard Arnault and Parfums Christian Dior are holding a soirée for the relaunch of the perfume Miss Dior, but the week's big party is the Balade de L'Amour being held tonight for the benefit of AIDS charities.

This will feature celebrities on a catwalk doing things they wouldn't normally do: singers will not sing, but designers might. More than 100 guests include Rifat Ozbek, Paul Smith, Sinead O'Connor and Boy George.

## You too?

THE HOTTEST shop in Paris is Et Vous. Chic young Parisians have been queuing on Saturday mornings outside the flagship store at 64 Rue de Rennes in St Germain to snap up their jeans and cotton drill trousers (£50-£90) in an array of colours, and shirts (£75) in plain or printed cottons. Et Vous has been available in Britain at Harrods and Whistles, and has just opened its first British shop at 126 King's Road, SW3.

## And finally

YVES Saint Laurent, the designer who always has the finale spot of Paris fashion week, is going public. On Wednesday he will present his spring/summer 1993 ready-to-wear collection exclusively to press and buyers at 11am: he will then have the second finale at 1pm when he opens the doors again to let in the public.

SARAH NEWTON

# Paris dresses for the age of anxiety



Young and romantic Corinne Cobson's designs (left) and those of Marcel Marongiu are not, they both stress, revivalist

October in Paris means chilly weather and summer clothes. The endless fashion round continues. It moves into its usual hotel, and, with churning stomach, begins to inspect the pile of mail which has been *en attendant* with the concierge.

Then the anguished cries begin. There's no invitation from Chanel. It's a standing-at-the-back invitation from Galliano. Good grief, what has one done to deserve row 11 at Montmartre? The leitmotif of the Paris ready-to-wear collections, anxiety, discontent and

a certain stale familiarity, is re-established. That staleness is what is currently preoccupying the governing body of this and all the other grand fashion cabarets which Paris gives the world, the Chambre Syndicale de la Couture. Currently it is examining ways to accommodate new blood both in couture and ready-to-wear, something it has, in the past, frequently failed to do. Recently it has been much readier both to make room on its calendar for hot designers from other countries and to endorse a new generation of

French designers. This is a generation which almost aggressively distances itself from the aging designers who have dominated French fashion for two decades (some even longer) and announces that the world is changing and it is in the vanguard of that change. In his modest, sunny atelier, Marcel Marongiu says earnestly: "My generation was brought up with everything. There were too many things. We were brought up to look and buy and have a great time. Clothes can no longer be about showing someone how rich you are or to what class

you belong. They must be about who you are as a person and what you are about."

M. Marongiu's collection is young and romantic, in natural, almost homespun-looking fabrics. The shoulders are narrow, tops skimpy and skirts long. If power shoulders, knife-edged tailoring and short skirts are aggressive, this is passive, tentative, receptive. It is, he says, the only reaction possible to the 1980s zeitgeist and the clothes which expressed it.

"But you must not call it a revival of the 1970s or anything else. Revivals are ridiculous, a hype thing, a crazy thing. Those who do not believe in anything. It is cynical and done for effect."

Back across Paris, Corinne Cobson dismisses a suggestion that her collection is "very 1970s". "Only for those old enough to remember," she says. "But people who did not see the 1970s need something more peaceful, more romantic, more poetic. The 1980s were very violent."

Her collection relies heavily on mottled, ribbed knits, menswear suitings and scraps of printed polyester. Her trousers, often knitted, are hipster flares, her skirts are long tubes or wraps worn over trousers. The theme of the photoprints on her skinny little T-shirts is urban terrorism. "The conflict in the cities, Sarajevo or New York, is what concerns us all... The 1970s was peace and love. Our generation is poetry and violence."

Violence? "Used to denounce what? The excesses of the 1980s. I am around 30. We grew up in the age of affluence which culminated in the recession, political and social problems and ethnic war. Designers are thought to be superficial but fashion is not superficial at all. A new generation is finding its feet."

Hervé Leger expresses the same mood in more phlegmatic terms. "There is always contradiction in fashion, swings from one extreme to its opposite, and it has been so hard, so tough, so square that

softness is what everyone desires. Times are changing and life is hard so everyone wants more romanticism."

Leger uses wide bands of Lycra-impregnated fabric to construct clothes of breath-constricting fit. He is one of the designers with whom the models actually spend their much publicised earnings.

The new collection diverges from earlier ones in the addition of soft, floaty fabrics and bright colour used in abstract, Mondrian-like panels. "It is still sexy," M. Leger says, "but softer. All men like my clothes. I think," he says, "that we

are entering an era of spirituality. People have had enough and too much of material things. This society is changing. There is war at the heart of Europe. That is very clear. It creates a new perspective."

Fashion as polemic has long been a British tradition. It is interesting to speculate the extent to which the twice-yearly presence in Paris of Katharine Hammett, Vivienne Westwood and John Galiano has helped young French designers find their voice.

Some of what they have to say may sound glib, but it certainly isn't stale.

"All men like my clothes": and Hervé Leger's designs are a hit with his models, too



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## Hats entertainment

What is billed as the country's first-ever exhibition of hats — nearly 100 of the more flamboyant numbers from the 7th century to the present day — opens next week in a Norman Foster-designed gallery in Knightsbridge. The show will be complemented by an extensively researched and beautifully produced book *Hats: Status, Style and Glamour*. The exhibition affords a good deal of fun — not a word one could associate with a collection of coats or trousers, say, but one that seems just right for hats.

The invention of the hat cannot have been far behind early man's realisation that he possessed a head. Certainly, connotations of wealth, power and status were rapidly acknowledged, although in the case of women one of the prime objectives of head covering was a male-imposed insistence upon modesty. For many centuries male headgear was pre-eminent, from tribal headdresses to bishops' mitres, the most enduring emblem of status being the top hat which, in England during its mid-19th century heyday, reached a height of 20 inches.

As male interest in hats continues its remorseless decline, milliners have plundered the styles, motifs and ornamentation of previous generations and applied them to ever less wearable hats for women: these tend to be called creations. More modest items of male headgear have been taken over — berets, flat caps, baseball caps, trilbies and even the sou'wester have become established components of the female wardrobe.

The serious hatmakers in this country — numbering just seven, according to one of them, although others will cite a dozen —

### A history of headwear goes on show next week



Feather brain: hat by Philip Treacy

are more interested in the haute couture one-off costing anything up to £1,000 a time. Philip Somerville, milliner to many royal families, including Britain's, says that the market at the top end is still very

buoyant. "A lady came in the other day," he says, "wanting a hat for a wedding: I shall make one with diamantes. It will cost her about £550, but of course she will wear it only once." Twice a year Mr Somerville launches a range of 300 more affordable hats (about £50-£60) which are stocked by Harrods and Harvey Nichols.

The most respected new talent in millinery is a young Irishman called Philip Treacy, who graduated from the Royal College of Art only two years ago and now makes collections for Rifat Ozbek, Karl Lagerfeld, Chanel, Victor Edelstein and Norman Hartnell, employing only four other people. Mr Treacy's greatest joy is "to make two dimensions become three, with my fingers as the only machinery". His more extravagant creations, making great use of black feathers, are truly show-stopping.

None of these bravura designers however, want anything to do with men's hats. They cite Herbert Johnson, Locks and Bates as being so well established as to brook no opposition.

Herbert Johnson has come up with a new design, however, which might well be the one item of headgear all men have been waiting for: lightweight, waterproof felt that you can roll up like a Panama. A snip at £95, and the one thing that *couture* has never aspired to be practical. There is nothing old hat about that.

JOSEPH CONNOLLY

● *Hats: Status, Style and Glamour* is at the Collection Gallery, 264 Brompton Road, London SW3 2AS (071-581 2716, from October 28 until October 31. The book of the same title by Colin McDowell is published today by Thames and Hudson (£24.95).

Johnnie



# Mining the hidden resource

Rosalind Miles reports on how women's tactics in 1984 have influenced the conduct of the miners' protests

Never can I recall," said Paddy Ashdown this weekend of the government's proposed pit closures, "an issue on which the sympathy has come down so solidly on one side." This weekend the miners have been heartened by support from regions as far removed, politically and geographically, as Yorkshire and Cheltenham. But encouragingly for the miners' leaders in the run-up to the parliamentary debate on the pit closures on Wednesday, public approval is focusing as much on the conduct of their case as on the justice of their cause.

Messrs Scargill, Willis & Co. the former angry men of too many losing battles with public opinion, are now winning widespread recognition — not least from the crucial backbench Tory MPs — for the restraint of their response and a new practical dignity in their campaigning tactics.

It was not ever thus. Speaking on *Any Questions* last Friday, Austin Mitchell, Labour MP for Great Grimsby, drew attention to the strangeness of a situation in which Arthur Scargill "could be made to look not only sane but right".

In the 1984-5 miners' strike, Scargill became the man the nation loved to hate. "Militants surging around fighting and throwing eggs, Scargill ranting and raving, all of that went against the cause," says Jackie Keating, a veteran of the 1984-5 campaign in Yorkshire and author of *Counting the cost*, a book about her family's experiences during the strike. The first seven days of the current campaign have shown, notwithstanding some eggs launched at Tim Eggar, the minister with direct responsibility for the coal industry, how much the men of today have learnt from yesterday's women. For in the bitter and protracted struggle of 1984-5 the miners' wives grew in public respect and support at every stage as fast as the miners lost it.

While their men were supplying a welter of ugly public images of picket line violence against the police, the disaffected showed just what "ordinary" women are capable of. No more than the wife of the general secretary of the National Union of Mineworkers, Betty Heathfield found herself addressing a 40,000-strong London rally alongside national figures like the chairman of the Labour Party and Tony Benn. She surprised herself in finding out that she could not only perform such a role, but relish it.

She was not alone. Lobbying, marching, fund-raising, campaigning, for the first time in their lives thousands of miners' wives found themselves holding down roles of equal weight with their men. They were also handling the kind of money their men could never dream of. £70,000 in the first week of the children's appeal in February 1985, £85,000 in one week alone at Christmas, not counting a cheque from John Paul Getty II.

The way they did this ensured for their men virtually the only good



United they fell: women's support could not save the miners in 1984, but is proving invaluable now

press they received during the course of the strike. Set against the headline antics of their men, the women presented a media-friendly face to a world that, as the flood of donations showed, was not slow to respond. "We really found our strength," says Val Perkins of Bradford. "We surprised ourselves."

Yet when disaster threatens, there has rarely been a time when women fall to rally behind their men, especially if, as with the mining communities, the disaster is a threat to a way of life as well as a mere occupation. It is hard to think of any major political or social movement over the last two centuries in which women were not passionately involved.

"In any revolution," says that most durable revolutionary Fidel Castro, "the women are always more revolutionary than the men."

Certainly women can show the same dedication to a cause, the same fierce sense of injustice and the same strength of commitment to fight it through as men do. Yet this feeling is at war with women's equally strong commitment to their homes and families, and their deep resistance to change.

Voting patterns worldwide show the strength of women's conservatism. In the last miners' strike, women's voices were often raised to keep their men at work, not out on strike. And with mortgages to pay today, and children to feed, Mrs

Keating argues, today's mining wives will hold their men back from a pointless strike. "The redundancy payment is all they've got. After that it's straight into the mire." The fact is that today, and probably also in 1984, not going on strike, for whatever reason, has become by far the most astute course of action politically.

In the wake of the 1984-5 strike the women resolved not to lose the ground they had so painfully won. And we've not gone back," says Jean Gittins, involved then at the Cortonwood Colliery on behalf of her husband and two sons. "We've got a thousand women a week going through Castleford Women's Centre near Pontefract now. They go on to

everything up to degree courses from here."

Mrs Keating agrees. "I started a college course after the last strike but I had to give it up. It took us three years to get out of our debts and I couldn't give up my part-time job as an auxiliary nurse. It only paid about £2 an hour but we had to have the money. My daughter, though, it is all different for her."

Mrs Keating's daughter Nikki, 19, currently in the first year of an industrial design degree at Barnsley Polytechnic, sets the change even in her own age group. "In the year above me there's only two women. My year has half and half. My mum had me when she was 19. I'm not going to have children until I am 30 at least. I want a good career."

In a region such as the coalfield of South Yorkshire, where women were traditionally housewives or mothers, these are big changes. And as Ms Gittins stresses the men have had to change too, and this shows in the conduct of the current campaign. "We've all got a better grasp now. Before, the men just balloted with their feet. Now they've learnt the value of public relations."

Perhaps, when the miners marched back to work in March 1985 behind their colliery bands, the fact that their wives marched ahead of them showed the beginnings of a recognition of both the value of the women's contribution and of good public relations. That emotional return to work won over — too late — many former opponents, but clearly some union leaders have not forgotten the occasion.

But this is not just a story of PR and media manipulation, Ms Gittins says. "Public opinion has learnt too. It's learnt that the men were right. Before they saw it just as a struggle over pay, they didn't see it was about closures even then. Now at last we're getting that across."

**'We've all got a better grasp. The men have learnt the value of public relations'**

Inevitably the old-style politics of confrontation are not entirely a thing of the past. But the action of Roy Lyrik, president of the Union of Democratic Mineworkers, who has occupied Silverhill pit in Nottinghamshire in a lone gesture to win support, has attracted little sympathy among the mining women. "It's Custer's last stand, isn't it?" says Val Perkins.

Others are more harsh. "He's made himself look like a real merchant banker, hasn't he?" says Tracey Rodding, a Coventry miner's wife. "What bloody good does he think that will do?"

The way that most of the men at the top are running the miners' new campaign is in striking contrast to the media-friendly submissions of the UDM leader. In refraining from any industrial action without a ballot — and possibly not even with one — the miners have shown a clear realisation that the real battleground is not the coalfield or the picket line, but the front page and the flickering screen as they lead straight into the hearts and minds of the Conservative backbenchers.



Maiden name champion: Gunnell with her fiancé Jon Bigg

## Sally Bigg Gunnell?

The first question facing today's bride is whether to change her name. The next question is: to what?

If Britain's Olympic heroine were to follow the example of her American counterparts she could appear at the next Games with an extra name. The double-barrelled solution to the question of a woman's name after marriage is gaining favour in the States: think of Mary Decker Slaney or Jackie Joyner-Kersey.

In Britain, however, it carries too many class connotations to be popular: most women either stick with the old or embrace the new. Sally Gunnell, who is due to marry fellow athlete Jon Bigg in Florida today, appears to favour the former, at least for professional purposes. "I have been trying for so many years to get my name up there I will not be changing it now," she says. But in private life she intends to adopt her husband's name.

Although there is no legal obligation on a woman to change her name, the files of the National Council for Civil Liberties (now called Liberty) are thick with complaints about employers, banks, building societies, solicitors, airlines, the DHSS and the Passport Office, all of whom have put obstacles in women's paths.

"In addition," Liberty says, "there are the pressures put on women by parents, in-laws and friends which often lead them to change their names in defeat or frustration."

Nicky Wesson, 43, the author of *Alternative Maternity* and *Home Births*, has been married for 15 years to the

architect David Raft. She has kept her name throughout but their four children, aged between 14 and six, all use their father's surname. "Though they do all have my name as middle names as well. The children accept it. They introduce me as their mother Nicky Wesson."

Heleen DeWit, a charity fund-raiser, married David Levene, an Oxford academic, five years ago when she was 28. "When you have had a name that length of time, even though it's really your father's name, it seems so much a part of your identity," she says. "A friend and her husband chose a new surname, Wildwood, just a name they both liked. But I have several other friends who kept their names but changed mid-stream... too much of a struggle."

Alison Vickers, a spokeswoman for Liberty, says: "I know some families where the children use the mother's name. I heard of one where the son has his father's name and the girl the mother's. But I've never heard of a husband taking his wife's name."

A generation ago, attitudes were different. One woman, a teacher who will soon celebrate her silver wedding, told me: "We married straight out of college. Getting a new name was a rite of passage. My maiden name was part of my childhood, the one I shared with my brother and sister. The new name was the grown-up one. And it never did Mrs Thatcher any harm, did it?"

LIZ GILL

## The flowering of genius



The botanical paintings of Dorothy Martin (left) are worth a 40-year wait

When Roedean School was evacuated to The Railway Hotel, Keswick, during the war, staff and students were appalled. "Our normal classrooms were the station waiting rooms, deathly cold even with those awful anthracite stoves. When the trains came in, half the population were farmers waiting to take something to market in Penrith and the other half were doing their

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Latin prep," says Mrs Noel Wurr, then a pupil. Nothing daunted, Dorothy Martin, the enterprising art teacher, was soon hard at work scrubbing oil and dust off the brick floor of the disused garage which was to be her new art room. "She was fanatically dedicated," Mrs Wurr says. "She'd be in there all day teaching the children and stay on at night with her mittens on, making these beautiful botanical paintings."

Those paintings — 300 of them — were donated to the Royal Horticultural Society's Lindley Library, when Dorothy Martin died in 1949, at the age of 67. And there, apart from the odd exhibition, they have remained.

Although her artistry and botanical accuracy far outstrip that of any 20th-century British flora published before or since, it has taken more than 40 years for Martin's work to be published. The 55 plates illustrating the 1993 RHS diary will rectify the omission. Brent Elliott, the RHS librarian, presented her work as one of three options to the publishers, Frances Lincoln.



Leaves from a gardener's diary: the Great Mullein by Dorothy Martin

"There was no debate. Her work was so consistently beautiful and well executed," says Erica Hummingher, the editorial director. "And they are not only exquisite to look at they are also close and careful studies of the plants. With longitudinal sections through the flower, the seed pod or the stamen, you learn something

about the plants as well." "The most famous colour illustrated flora was made by her elder contemporary, the Rev Keble Martin, whose *Concise British Flora* was eventually published in 1965," Mr Elliott says. "But both it and H. Isabel Adams's *Wild Flowers of the British Isles*, which led the field in

obituary records trips "to make paintings of special flowers for the Royal Horticultural Society" (the headmistress allowed her one day off a week to go to London "to make paintings or keep in touch with her artist friends"), the RHS have no present knowledge of any such paintings, or indeed, whether she ever won any of its awards.

1910, suffered from an idealised representation of the species, executed in very pastel colours. Dorothy Martin's work easily rivals theirs. She was more than halfway through a series of sketches of the plant when she died. As it stands, she was very near having at least one example for every plant family.

The paintings reveal a delicacy of handling, a lightness of touch which never lapses into wishy-washy prettiness. Here are the coarse striated stalks of the woolly thistle, the sharp barbs about its bracts, its flower head bursting mauve and fluffy; here are the glistering fruits of the common elder, black, red, grey, green at varying stages of maturation. And here the sunshine pea-flowers of the common broom. They express both perception and vitality.

Although Miss Martin's Roedean remains to be written. Fortunately, there are still people who remember her. Mary Chevallier was her pupil at the age of 12. "Then she wore an artist's smock and had her hair tied up in a bun. It tended to fall down rather. She always seemed incredibly old. Her lessons were lovely."

Mrs Wurr remembers her as "an amazing woman and an exquisite painter who managed to inspire us even under the most difficult conditions." "She came from one of those banalities of eccentric English women, dressed in an arty-frumpy style, with Fair Isle cardies and long socks. She was very bent and decrepit with a sweet, kind face."

When the school returned from Keswick, Dorothy Martin sat down calmly in the midst of stuffed birds, books and mixed indeterminate rubbish to paint a flower that had been sent her: "for, my dear," she said, "the flower may be dead tomorrow but the mess will still be here."

ELUNED PRICE

The Royal Horticultural Society Diary 1993 is published by Frances Lincoln, £9.99.

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AN ELIZABETHAN EMBROIDERED PICTURE

## EHRMAN TAPESTRY



Elizabethan embroideries with their love of flowers, animals and countryside, are the inspiration for this delightful tapestry kit which would work equally well as a picture or cushion cover. The soft colours are those of the period: dusty blues, brick reds, gold and variegated greens.

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Matthew Parris

■ We of the late 20th century, for all our gadgetry, lack the inventiveness of our forefathers

Robert Robinson's new Saturday programme on Radio 4, *Ad Lib*, teeters wonderfully between chaos and entertainment. Next week he will be joined by three downs, but his rendezvous last Saturday was at the Science Museum, with a group of inventors anxious to persuade us that they were not nutty, white-haired obsessives with Middle European accents.

I loved the discussion. However light-hearted, the beguiling Mr Robinson will defy slip in a serious contention or two, and this time there were two. I reject both. He suggested that the real genius of an inventor lies in identifying a need we didn't know we had. And he implied that inventing things goes on today with bewildering pace and ingenuity.

I disagree. I think the greatest inventions fill gaps which are as plain as pluckstaffs. If only we looked today, we would see huge needs crying out to be filled. Yet truly innovative technology seems to have got bogged down. With great energy and cleverness we make devices ever handier and smaller, but we are inventing important things at the slowest pace for centuries. The years from 1950 will be looked back on as a black hole in the history of human ingenuity. We approach the millennium with perhaps two advances — one useful and one decorative — to notch up since the second world war: the microchip / infotech "revolution"; and space travel. There is almost nothing else. So where is the revolution?

Take the revolution, for instance, between 1750 and 1800. Fifty stunning years saw the arrival of what we might describe as the Industrial machine. The static steam engine which transformed Europe and America was introduced. Water-driven spinning mills were established, iron was used for bridges and rail tracks, the first canals were built and the industrial revolution started with Arkwright's mill here (where I write) in Derbyshire. The modern age was upon us.

Compare with the more recent advances Mr Robinson told us about on Saturday. A new process can add a phosphorescent agent to dog food, resulting in dog droppings which glow in the dark so that you can avoid them on the pavement.

Now take the next half century, from 1800 to 1850. Five short decades saw the introduction of the steam locomotive with all that followed. Other new arrivals were trains, gas, rubber, lithography, modern tunnelling, plate glass, the upright piano, cement, matches, photography, elastic, steam ships, turbines, Morse and the telegraph, bifurcated surfaces, parachutes and the electric motor.

Compare that with innovation in the 50 years since 1950, which has included (as its inventor explained to Mr Robinson) a flush downpipe from cistern to toilet bowl which doubles up (when not flushing) as a foul air extractor appipe, tackling the problem as close to source as would be comfortable.

And now back to the second half of the 19th century. They invented piped town gas, the electric light, the disinfectant, the phonograph, the telephone, the internal combustion engine, the motor vessel and the motor car. Compare that to an invention recently described in *The Times*: a device which automatically parks your car.

Am I making my point? Shall I quote you, for the next half century in our series — the period (roughly) 1900-1950 — the inventions of the aeroplane, the jet, cinema, nuclear power, plastic, tape-recording, the transistor, penicillin, radio and television?

I think an artisan from the 1750s would have been almost unable to believe the world as it was to exist after 1800, while a young man from that early Georgian era would have found the Victorian age steaming ahead by 1850 wholly bewildering. And the Britain into which my grandparents were born towards the end of Victoria's reign had changed almost out of recognition from the Britain Lord Melbourne left when he died in 1848. By the time my grandparents retired in the 1950s, stories of their turn-of-the-century childhood sounded like tales from another world. Horses and carriages? Lamplights? No electricity? Clothes-irons heated with charcoal? As a child I heard this with incredulity.

I was born in 1949. Approaching the end of this century, do I amaze the young with my own unbelievable tales of Britain in the Fifties? I think not. Blink, today, and you could be in the 1950s. My car, a Land Rover, actually is from the 1950s. So is my dinner jacket. New are transistor radios, lap-tops, colour television, compact discs — oh, and the telephones are a different shape. That's about it. Only the infotech revolution could bring — but not yet, it seems — serious change.

The internal combustion engine (which, even when invented more than 100 years ago, was an awkward, Heath-Robinson bastard son of the steam engine) is still with us, essentially unchanged. In 50 years, hundreds of billions of pounds have been poured into tinkering with an atrocious design which should have been obsolete years ago, if only anyone had thought of anything better.

They did, of course: the electric motor. But its destiny is being thwarted by an inventor's mental block of monumental proportions: our failure to find an efficient way of storing electricity. Nobody has invented an affordable battery which packs a punch like petrol. This invention would — will — sweep away overnight a century's investment in automotive technology and half a century's investment in "electrified" railway tracks. This was the thing our generation was supposed to invent. Failure to develop the electric battery is a reproach to our age.

Pace Robert Robinson, I assert that ours is a most uninventive era, and cite three inventions for which the need stares us in the face. The battery: a way of creating moving images in three dimensions; and a low-energy means of desalinating seawater. All these things will come, and when they do the world around us will suddenly begin to change again. Until they do, we are, rather surprisingly for such a clever generation, stuck.

The Opposition cannot count on John Major's government self-destructing, writes Peter Riddell

## Labour's awkward edge

RIDDELL ON MONDAY

John Smith might seem to have all the political cards this morning, handed to him by the government with, for once, the public cheering on his side. But the Labour leadership faces questions of political tactics as tricky, if much less acute, than John Major's. Labour should win this week's hand, but can it turn that into a game-winning strategy? Mr Major is obviously in serious trouble, but that does not mean he is doomed. The trap for the Opposition is to believe that the government's difficulties will put it in Downing Street.

In the short-term, the government looks certain to emerge from the British Coal affair as a big loser. Tory backbench opposition has developed a momentum which will be difficult to halt without big concessions. The tough line taken on television yesterday by Michael Heseltine will be severely tested over the next two days. The whips may have got their figures right, and Mr Heseltine may be persuasive today in the Commons, but the odds must still be that the government will

have to alter the timing of closures, by setting up a review, to allow Tory critics to scramble back on board before the end of Wednesday's debate.

That outcome would be a humiliating climbdown for Mr Major, but it would not be the first since 1945. Reading Ben Pimlott's masterly new biography of Harold Wilson has reminded me how often governments have got into comparable messes and recovered.

Even if ministers persist with their present policy, just promising more money for redundant miners, and are defeated on Wednesday, the government would immediately put down a confidence motion for Thursday, which it would win. That would be a severe blow for Mr Major, but it would not be fatal. The Callaghan government suffered several such setbacks in the 1970s. Moreover, Mr Major is more defiant, resilient and

determined than much press comment implies.

Either way, however, the Tories look likely to end the week on the defensive, but that is still a long way from a Labour knockout. Two many Labour leaders talk as if the Tories' victory last April was an aberration, a confidence trick which has now been exposed and which had nothing to do with the Opposition's failings.

One shadow cabinet member told me how irritated he was when someone said that everything was all right for Labour — "the Tories are discredited and we will soon be 15 points ahead in the polls". But only two years ago Labour had the Tories on the run over the poll tax and were ahead by a similar margin. The Tories have won four elections in a row not just because of their own merits, but because of Labour's weaknesses.

The Opposition cannot count on Mr Major's government continuing to destroy itself. It needs to remedy its own failings. First, that means behaving like a government in waiting and not opposing for its own sake, regardless of the consequences. Labour and trade-union leaders have so far handled the pit closure affair shrewdly, harnessing the widespread public outcry, and not getting involved in anything smacking of militancy or strike action. But Arthur Scargill may not be a popular hero for ever.

The next test will be the Maastricht treaty, when Mr Smith's pro-European instincts will clash with party pressures to exploit Tory splits. Labour will

naturally try to discomfit the government as much as it can when the Commons committee stage starts in just over three weeks, but unless it can be sure of being able to force the Tories out of office, voting against the bill could undermine the Opposition's long-term position.

On the economy, some Labour spokesmen are in danger of calling for mutually incompatible goals: a competitive pound, lower interest rates, and additional public borrowing to spur recovery. The public may not be studying the fine print of Labour's policies while the Tories are in such a mess, but the Opposition no less than the government faces a credibility test.

A belief that "one more heaven" will secure victory also threatens to undermine the drive towards changing Labour's internal structure, forming its relations with the

unions, creating a mass membership party and becoming generally more outward looking. The party has only a year to make these changes, and inertia now could look damaging in three years' time.

A further fact is that if the government becomes very unpopular over the next year or two, as is likely through high unemployment, the council tax and public spending cuts, then the Liberal Democrats may benefit as well as, and possibly more than, Labour. The Lib Dems have done, and said, nothing to deserve such a boost, but the record of the past decade is that when the Tory heartlands become disillusioned with the government, as in 1981, 1985-86 and 1989-90, then it is the third party that gains electorally. That is also a warning for Labour that it cannot be complacent.

The present political crisis is ideally suited for John Smith's forensic skills. But he needs to think strategically as well. Labour will not gain power by default. It will have to win the next election on its own merits.

The follies of the bankers are yet again on display, says Bernard Levin

Half I knew the present Lord Beaverbrook was a dud, but I knew it for a rather arcane reason. The peerage of his grandfather, the first Lord Beaverbrook (the must have paid Lloyd George, a hereditary one, and in those days there was no way that any man succeeding to a peerage could shed it: willy-nilly he was a peer from the hour of his father's death. Only when Anthony Wedgwood Benn, together with John Grigg, fought for and gained legislation which enabled a reluctant peer to disclaim his title, could a hereditary peer escape the embrace of the House of Lords. But the legislation included a clause which would enable later generations to reclaim the renounced honour.

By the time the first Lord Beaverbrook died (1964), the legislation was in force. The Beaver's elder son, Max, was therefore eligible either to take up or renounce the peerage; there was also a hereditary baronetcy. Max did not hesitate: it is impossible to renounce a baronetcy, but Max's wise and dignified words from his father's deathbed were "There will be only one Lord Beaverbrook".

Alas, he reckoned without his own son, who has borrowed the real Lord Beaverbrook's plumage. The peerage that the Beaver's son renounced was too tempting a morsel, and Beaverbrook *minimus* scoffed it, crumbs and all. Call me Your Lordship and stop that giggling.

But if that is comedy, tragedy is now knocking at the door, and it comes in the form of the bailiffs, because Beaverbrook the Third is in financial trouble so colossal that the newspapers recording his debts have had to send out for more noughts. A few weeks ago we were all startled by the news that a friend of the mini-Beaver had lent Beaver the Third no less than half a million pounds on, appar-

ently, note of hand alone. That, you may think, is taking friendship a mighty long way: I do not name this Macaness here, partly because there would be a mile-long queue outside his house by morning, and partly because the dreadful truth has dawned: the half-million is up the spout. (There is some Danish bloke hovering about, saying "Neither a borrower, nor a lender be: For loan oft loses both itself and friend, and borrowing dulls the edge of husbandry", but that must be cold comfort for the man with a hole in his pocket five hundred grand across.)

But the moment we stop commiserating with the too-generous friend, and get our breath back, we discover that half a million is small beer in this business. His Lordship is five million pounds on the wrong side of the ledger. The only really funny thing about all this is that until very recently the Beaverkin was treasurer of the Conservative party.

Now you are probably thinking that I am using my space today for tormenting the Lord of

the Defective Calculator. I am not: all that unkindness was just setting the scene. The players were, once more, the banks.

I cannot understand how there can be a single sock remaining on the shelves of Selfridges, Harrods and other clothing emporiums: surely the whole nation has by now realised that the banks — the entire banking system, not just this or that bank — constitute a shambles of incompetence, inaccuracy, ignorance, innumeratecy and indifference. Indifference, that is, to their customers and customers' requirements. It is a waste of time to stamp out of Barclays and go to Lloyds, or to slam the door of NatWest and move to Midland, or any other permutation.

But that distaste concerns only the banking problems of individual customers or their companies. Let us return to "Lord" Beaverbrook and his problems, for these illustrate much better the nature of our banks and their methods. Despite last-minute help for the sinking vessel from his mother and his wife, each willing to put

up half a million of their own money to keep the vessel afloat, it seems that it is holed below the waterline and swarming with pirates (who are understandably getting very stumpy by finding nothing of value but dog-eared promissory notes), and the end has come.

Consider: Coutts alone is in the mire for £1.5 million, as is the Royal Bank of Scotland, and Barclays — wants £350,000, though that's a trifle here. There is much talk of Guyanese rainforests and vintage cars, but for that matter there will soon be talk about Father Christmas and even fairies with three wishes, but if 10p in the pound is ever recovered I shall eat His Lordship unbuttoned.

You must understand that no law has been broken by Lord Beaverbrook or his companies: he has not done anything shady. His problem was that every time he tried to multiply two by two he got a different answer. But why did not the banks notice that they were dealing with a right noodle?

The lamentable but inescapable answer is that the banks, in their higher reaches, are right noodle themselves.

Clogs to clogs in three generations; never was the old saw more applicable. The trouble is that it is working only in the Beaverbrook-Aitken family, not the banks, and that is where it is needed. I have said, so often that somebody should set it to music, that if all the directors of all the principal banks were simultaneously demented, the banks and their customers would gain so much and so quickly that the nation's financial problems would be solved overnight.

Unfortunately, it will not happen. That would not matter, if it were not for the terrible truth that the banks can outBourbon the Bourbons: they have learnt nothing and forgotten everything. Billions upon billions were showered on Third World countries, the leaders of which instantly stole every penny, when that orgy was over, the banks looked all round for the biggest crook in history, and found him floating beside his

yacht, where even the most diligent search — diligence being something the banks think is a stage-coach — has not yet come up with the missing customers' money; and now they are advertising for numbskulls to waste their money on — the more wasted the more applauded.

It comes down to a single question, doesn't it? Since Lord Beaverbrook was not concealing his plight — indeed, he was rushing about in the most visible and audible manner — and since all are agreed that there was no impropriety in his business dealings, why did not the banks notice that he was very thoroughly ruined, and even (though this is too much to ask of our banks) notice in time to avoid the disaster?

Answers, on a postcard please, to the BCCI. PS. In my column of October 12, I commended the excellent article by Carolyn Hart in the Daily Mail. It was indeed excellent, but it appeared in the London Evening Standard, to which organ I offer an unqualified apology.

## Pardon my pizza

JOHN MAJOR surely has enough on his plate without the demand he is now facing from a London pizza restaurant for an apology. An indignant Antonio Proietti, manager of the Pizzeria Castello at the Elephant and Castle, is calling on the prime minister to withdraw a description of his pizzas as "the worst in the Western world".

Major made the comments at a ball during the Tory conference when he recalled he used to eat at the restaurant with Sir Norman Fowler in the 1980s when both men were ministers at the nearby Department of Health and Social Security. "The pizzas were so full of garlic that most of the people in the Elephant and Castle building used to leave immediately after we returned. Norman never realised that was why I always had an unavoidable engagement elsewhere."

The restaurant is outraged, with some reason, since most food critics count its pizzas among the best in London. The Castello is listed in *The Good Food Guide*, and has received rave reviews in *Tatler*, the *Evening Standard* and *Time*

Out, not to mention appearing in *The Times* list compiled by Jonathan Meades of the top 100 restaurants in Britain.

"Proietti's restaurant has served the best pizzas in London since the early 1980s," says Meades unreservedly. "They are far more Italian than the mass-produced English imitations. Perhaps this was lost on Mr Major, with his love of Little Chews and Happy Eaters."

Proietti says: "He should apologise, although we take his

Did I say Pits? ... I meant Pizzas



views with a pinch of salt. He obviously has no idea how to run the country or what makes a good pizza." He can, however, think of an excuse for Major. "I suspect the real reason he did not like it here is because the



## DIARY

Labour party HQ in Walworth Road is only a stone's throw away. They almost live in here."

● After leaves on the line, and the wrong type of snow, even British Rail is adopting a humorous attitude to its excuses for late-running trains. Commuters on the Bury St Edmunds to Ipswich line were offered this one: "A slow moving engineer's train was unable to see the signals because of the wrong type of sun."

Old grey suit test AS the prime minister went to lunch today with officers of the 1972 Committee on its 70th anniversary, he will no doubt be reminded of his power to make or break ministers. Sir Edward du Cann, a guest at tonight's party at the Carlton Club, told Edward Heath in 1974 to accept a leadership con-

test or resign. Cranley Owslew had an equally historic role. He led a delegation of the committee's "men in grey suits" to see Mrs Thatcher after the first and indecisive leadership ballot in November 1990.

The backbench grouping took its inspiration from the meeting on October 19, 1922, of all Tory MPs at the Carlton, where it was decided to defy the party leadership by repudiating the coalition with Lloyd George's Liberals.

With John Major looking isolated, Lord Harvey of Prestbury, aged 86, who chaired the committee in the late 1960s, can see parallels with the departure of Heath. Harvey staged the first working dinner between the committee and the shadow cabinet to discuss backbench reservations about the leadership. "I shouldn't say this, but Ted was out of touch with backbenchers. He didn't enjoy the dinner. It

was the first and only one we held. But the food was good."

## A bigger bleep

ONE OF the most trusted members of Paddy Ashdown's inner circle, Oly Grender, has been rewarded with the new post of parliamentary communications director for the Liberal Democrats. At the age of 30, Grender's appointment effectively makes her the most powerful woman in the party.

Known as "Jolly Oly" by the press corps, Grender distinguished herself during the general election campaign by ordering journalists to turn off their mobile telephones and beepers during morning conferences. Within seconds of the order, Grender's bleeper went off, and seconds later, to a roar from the press corps and Ashdown, her mobile rang.

## Bonn bashers

EVEN as the Queen was arriving in Germany today for a state visit a group of her most loyal subjects had fallen out with the Germans. The Police Federation has ended 20 years of membership of the Union of European Police Unions in protest at the heavy-handed approach of the Germans.

An explanation for the decision has appeared in the latest issue of *Police*, the magazine of the federation. It could have been written by the most die-hard anti-federalists in the Tory party. The report accuses the union of meddling in the internal affairs of member countries. No prizes for guessing who the federation blames.

"It has been dominated by the very strong German police union and clings to a system by which the president, usually a German, appoints a fellow countryman to be the general secretary." At last month's congress in Spain, months of painstaking work to agree a more dynamic approach, including the election of a general secretary, were torpedoed by the Germans. "It was the last straw," says the federation, which has ripped up its membership card.

● Cheltenham ladies were not the only Tories marching in support of the miners yesterday. Clive Froggatt, an adviser to William Waldegrave and Virginia Bottomley, also joined in. Any fear he might have felt for his political future from such an act of revolt may have taken second place to domestic considerations. "His wife's twin sister organised the march."





## MAJOR AND MACHIAVELLI

■ Leadership means knowing when to back down

Michael Heseltine bluffed his way through the television studios yesterday like the political high-roller we have always known him to be. Wearing his best poker-player's face, the President of the Board of Trade said that he would not back down over the scale and immediacy of the pit closures; he offered no hint of intention to buy support from Tory MPs who intend to vote against him on Wednesday. The cabinet's master of the political casino looked like a man with a clear Commons majority in his pocket. Yet he knew, even as he ruled out the slightest concession, that the Chief Whip could not guarantee victory.

By later today he may feel easier. The Tory whips may be satisfied that enough backbench dissidents have been brought to heel. Alternatively, the revolt will have hardened and the question for senior ministers will be whether to concede more now or be defeated later. Much will hang on how MPs feel when they return to Westminster after their tumultuous recess. The stake is higher than the fate of the pits; the future of government and prime minister is on the line.

Nobody could fault Mr Heseltine's courage yesterday. But true political leadership means more than just taking and defending decisions. It means taking and defending the right decisions. John Major complained on Friday that as soon as he showed a strong sense of purpose by deciding to close down half the coal industry, he was attacked. To throw 100,000 into unemployment without consultation or warning in the depths of a recession is nearer to lunacy than leadership.

For most of her premiership, Baroness Thatcher was a good leader. As well as exhibiting the strength of her convictions, she also displayed a remarkable degree of flexibility. Mr Major could usefully learn from her; indeed he did so as a junior minister when he was forced to change the rules to

allow cold weather payments for the elderly. He needs now to be more flexible than she was, for his parliamentary majority is a mere 21. He should learn too from Machiavelli: "The man who adapts his course of action to the nature of the times will come to grief. The man who sets his course of action out of tune with the times will come to grief." So far, he seems determined to dig a deeper hole than the miners used to be paid to do.

The pit closures are not at the heart of the problem. If the government is forced to adapt its course of action today, Mr Heseltine will have the option of announcing a postponement of the closure plans pending a review of the electricity market, a market which is not properly competitive and seems to have been designed to ensure the demise of a domestic coal industry. But the prime minister should not be wasting precious reserves of personal loyalty over coal mines; he will need all the loyalty he can get on the Maastricht Bill and the much deeper divide in his party over Europe.

Traditionally, prime ministers use two tactics when in difficulty: diversions and cabinet reshuffles. Mr Major would be best advised to use both at once. He should not embark on a night of the long knives; that would only emphasise his weakness and desperation. Instead he must take the earliest opportunity to sack his Chancellor. The tactic that would most effectively divert attention from the pit closure debate and Maastricht would be a bold new plan for economic recovery. That cannot now be led by Mr Lamont.

This week's argument about the British coal industry is what Sigmund Freud would have called displacement activity. What MPs really worry about is the state of the economy. Opposing pit closures is one way of displaying anxiety which will be dispelled only if the government shows leadership where it matters.

## A WOLF AT RUSSIA'S DOOR

■ The West must be alert to Yeltsin's military enemies

Russia's reformers are on the defensive again. President Yeltsin's senior advisers are struggling to postpone until next year the elections for the Congress of People's Deputies that are due in December. They fear, with increasing good reason, that this conservative stronghold of the old party bureaucracy will exploit its constitutional power to slow down the hated economic reforms, try to topple the Gaidar government and possibly even force the President's resignation.

Since the collapse of the August coup, and especially after the break-up of the Soviet Union, rumours have regularly swept the country of a new coup. The danger now is not of another bungled takeover but of hardliners insinuating themselves back into power. Drawing on widespread popular anger, on resentment of crime, civil unrest, hyperinflation, black marketeers and a Russia impotent to defend its interests in its former empire let alone in the world, the new plotters would install an authoritarian government. Last spring Mr Yeltsin warned of the "hot breath of fascism" which he felt on his neck; only last week *Izvestia* reported the growth of Hitlerite stormtroopers in St Petersburg and their close links with the "patriarchy" and the military.

The danger comes not only from men such as Arkady Volysky, leader of the heavy industry lobby that wants a partial return to the command economy, but from the military and the former KGB. These old pillars of Soviet power have become the new champions of Russian nationalism. From the Baltics to the Caucasus, from Moldova to Central Asia, they see Russia's interests threatened. In the trans-Dniestr region of Moldova, the Russian population has risen in revolt against the republic's Romanian-

speaking majority. In Estonia the bulk of the Russian-speaking nation has been disenfranchised and a new nationalist president is talking about "encouraging" them to emigrate. Russian troops in the Baltics and Moldova are under pressure to withdraw. In Tajikistan they have been caught in the crossfire of ethnic and fundamentalist feuding.

The right is goading Mr Yeltsin to be more vigorous in defending the 25 million Russians beyond Russia's borders. Senior military officers are aghast at the army's paralysis. Perhaps most serious of all, strategic planners in Moscow are increasingly concerned that Ukraine, reverting to an authoritarian nationalism of its own, is balking at the agreements on unitary control of nuclear weapons, and is now attempting to replace Russians with Ukrainians to man the silos in its territory.

Democratic structures are still too young and too weak to stand these strains. What matters in Russia is not the law, but power—as former President Gorbachev is finding to his cost. The opposition to Mr Yeltsin is not a loyal opposition but a surly, latent coalition of the disgruntled, the opportunists, the disillusioned and the defeated. So far they have thrown up no coherent demagogue with a convincing economic alternative. Who knows, however, whether the smokescreen of rumours may indeed be masking well laid plans of the old guard to seize power again.

The reformers are despondent at the West's indifference and its tardiness in underpinning the reforms with aid and political engagement. Their regular cries of wolf produce less and less resonance. But the West should not ignore the democrats' despair: for the wolf is at Russia's door.

## EXCESS OF ADVICE

■ Ignore the experts and eat what you like

In human existence, there are but two certainties: death and taxes. While the avoidance of tax has spawned a huge industry devoted to postponing the day when a cheque must finally be signed, the avoidance of death has been left to an *ad hoc* alliance of amateurs. From every side they bombard people with well-meant advice: eat this, do that, go jogging, don't go jogging, tune in, turn on, drop out.

It falls, thank heaven, on unresponsive ears. For an unbiased history of health advice would reveal that most of it is shown to be wrong before it has even had time to penetrate the collective consciousness. More people remember the advice to avoid bread and potatoes—long since disproved—than have ever taken on board the more complex messages that serious dieticians would like them to hear.

Yet people must be doing something right, for the expectation of life constantly increases. The more Nanny declares people are failing to save their lives, the longer they live. Today the Family Heart Association launches its annual Cholesterol Countdown Week, an attempt to scare millions into rushing to their doctors and demanding to have their lipid levels measured. The enterprise is misbegotten.

Even Americans, the most enthusiastic cholesterol counters, are finally admitting its faults. Cholesterol is but one of a number of risk factors in heart disease, to which a new

one was added last week, an aberrant gene which makes the arteries constrict. If cutting cholesterol levels could be shown unequivocally to reduce death rates, there might be a case for screening whole populations, as in the US. But it cannot.

Every heart disease death saved by reducing cholesterol is matched by an extra death from some other cause. Overall death rates remain unaffected. Only in those already at high risk for other reasons or those with a genetic predisposition to very high cholesterol levels is intervention justified.

The danger with universal cholesterol testing is that it defines whole swathes of the population as unhealthy, and as potential recipients for powerful drugs, when nobody has sufficient wisdom or knowledge to make such a diagnosis. By taking one risk factor in isolation it also distracts attention from others, of which smoking remains by far the most important.

It is right that people should be provided with information about the risks to which diet and behaviour may expose them. But description should never descend into prescription until certainty has been achieved. In heart disease, medicine is still some way from that desirable conclusion. Moderation in all things remains the only sensible advice; that, and a healthy scepticism towards the planners and banners who would dictate everyone's lives if only they could.

## Coal, Major and the Eurosummit

From Mr Michael A. Keeley

Sir, How ironic the juxtaposition of the two press conferences given by the prime minister at the end of the Birmingham Eurosummit (reports, October 17).

In the first, he reported on his efforts to shore up an institution whose most notable achievement has been the accumulation, at enormous cost and over many years, of mountains of unsaleable farm produce throughout Europe.

Only minutes later he was justifying the loss of 30,000 British miners' jobs in terms of the economic irrationality of accumulating unsaleable coal.

The government cannot be right on both counts.

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL A. KEELEY,  
Glasgow Polytechnic,  
Department of Finance and  
Accounting,  
Cowcaddens Road,  
Glasgow,  
October 17.

## Maastricht debate

From Mr Anthony J. Gray

Sir, In your otherwise excellent guide to the Birmingham summit (October 15) you quote article 3b of the Maastricht treaty as saying: "The Community shall take action, in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity, only if and in so far as the objectives of the proposed action cannot be sufficiently achieved by the member states (etc.)."

Article 3b actually says: "In areas which do not fall within its exclusive competence (my italics) the Community shall take action (etc.)." This is the constitutional issue which must be addressed.

Article 3b concerns purely the exercise and not the content of powers, which is reserved for the authors of the treaty (i.e. the national governments). So no definition of the areas of "exclusive competence" is to be found there.

However, article 3 of the treaty sets out 20 activities which are to be implemented at the Community level in accordance with the timetable set out in the treaty.

Since these activities cover the greater part of our national life, it seems reasonable to ask to what extent these do or will fall within the "exclusive competence" of the Community and thus fall outside the application and the principle of subsidiarity.

The first task of the Council of Ministers must be to decide what the Community wants to do in common: decide if the Community ministers are appropriate for the task, if respected and pursued; and lastly, hammer out a deal on subsidiarity.

To continue the debate on subsidiarity, taken on its own, is putting the cart firmly before the horse.

Yours faithfully,  
ANTHONY J. GRAY,  
5 Ranelagh Avenue,  
Pulham, SW6,  
October 16.

From Professor Lord Beloff, FBA

Sir, Lord Campbell of Alloway writes (letter, October 16) that if the House of Lords rejected the bill for ratifying the treaty of Maastricht, it would probably not be "in accordance with convention and the spirit of the Constitution".

If he is correct he is in a very difficult position. If the treaty were ratified, the two primary elements in the "spirit of the Constitution"—the rule of law (common and statute) and the sovereignty of Parliament, both much eroded—would vanish altogether.

Should not this consideration be the dominant one?

Yours truly,  
BELOFF,  
House of Lords,  
October 16.

## Morris women

From Mr P. J. Holdaway

Sir, In response to the question raised in your article (October 7), "Can a woman be a Morris man?", I would answer "no".

The upsurge of interest in English tradition and folk dance which is manifested in women attempting Morris dances is laudable but, in this case, sadly misdirected. Whilst it is undeniable that many women are skilled and charming performers, it is the very feminine precision and grace which they inevitably give to the dances which in the end invalidates them.

True Morris may or may not originate as a pagan fertility rite—the circumstantial evidence is strong—but it is undoubtedly a virile ritual dance: which loses its power and magic when performed by women.

As for those enthusiastic and talented women, why not turn their attentions to other, more neglected, areas of traditional English dance, which would surely be at least equally rewarding?

Yours faithfully,  
P. J. HOLDAWAY,  
1 Burnt Hill Cottages,  
Pleasford Road,  
Dunstable, Bedfordshire,  
October 9.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9NN Telephone 071-782 5000

## 'Death by design' or key to sales?

From Professor D. G. Rhys

Sir, Stephen Bayley is wrong to attack the Design Council ("Lingering death by design", October 6) for ignoring the importance of production process because of an obsession with product design.

The present council is well aware of the importance of process design and of the fact that design improves efficiency; but this is "design for manufacture", where simultaneous engineering and multi-skilled design teams develop products which are easy to manufacture and thus help productivity and quality.

Ease of manufacture is a result of the design process and leads to greater efficiency and improved financial performance. The Design Council understands this, but it is conscious of the difficulties involved in getting this message through. The misdirected article by Stephen Bayley shows how much remains to be done.

Yours faithfully,  
D. G. RHYSS  
(Member, Welsh Advisory Council,  
Design Council),  
14 Maes Yr Awel, Radyr, Cardiff.

From Dr D. Kewley

Sir, I endorse Stephen Bayley's analysis of the need for process to assume a key role in design. What disappoints me is that he does not recognise that many in British industry and in the Design Council itself entirely agree with him.

As a recent appointee to the Design Council awards committee for the transport sector, I regard it as our task to look at the functionality, design and engineering process, materials selection and commercial viability of award entries: indeed, some of this year's entries feature on the design process itself rather than the product.

The key to a successful design is the synergy provided by stylists, product engineers, manufacturing engineers and commercial practitioners working simultaneously on the process and product, from concept to the market place. I would not, for instance, regard the conferring of a Design Council award on the Land Rover Discovery in 1991 as a "kiss of death": that product majors on functionality, as I have no doubt will many of this year's entries.

Yours faithfully,  
D. KEWLEY,  
(Chief Engineer, Advanced  
Technology and Materials),  
Rover Group Ltd.,  
Gaydon Test Centre  
Banbury Road,  
Lighthorne, Warwick.

From Mr John Fisher

Sir, Surely the word missing from Stephen Bayley's article is *successful*.

## Economic guesswork

From Mr Kevin Pakenham

Sir, Four main forces have determined British economic policy over many years: the Treasury's purpose to restrain public spending; the Bank of England's predilection to keep money and interest rates in check; the Conservative party's bias towards higher asset prices and profits, especially in housing and smaller companies; the preference in the Labour party's rank and file for higher wages, particularly in the public sector.

In 1990 the Bundesbank entered the equation under the cloak of the ERM, and seriously disturbed the balance. Normal service has now been resumed, and Punch and Judy, the policeman and the crocodile, can revert to their pre-ordained roles.

Yours faithfully,  
KEVIN PAKENHAM,  
13 Napier Avenue, SW6.

From Mr Jeremy Stone

Sir, It is clear that lower interest rates alone cannot induce a recovery. Indeed, without the backdrop of restored national spirits, even the most drastic reductions in nominal interest rates cannot stimulate activity. On that limited topic, even Mr Lamont commands some credibility.

If the government hopes to be taken seriously again, it must rediscover fiscal policy, and fast. Raising tax rates in the current state of the economy is likely to be counter-productive. What is therefore required is to increase

## Bronze Age boat

From Mr P. A. Sergeant

Sir, The similarity of the Bronze Age boat recently discovered at Dover (report, October 3) to the 3,000-year-old boat found at North Ferraby in 1947 gives rise to the question of what such boats were used for.

North Ferraby is opposite the mouth of the river Ancholme, on which stands the town of Brigg, in the district of Glanford Brigg, Humberside. Both names surely derive from the crossing of the river and tidal area in ancient times by ford or bridge.

At least three structures have been found at Brigg: a short "causeway", a large hollowed tree trunk and a raft-like device with a flat bottom. Pieces of boat have also been found between Brigg and the Humber.

In ancient times the tidal outflow of water from the Ancholme river and marsh area, combined with that of the land water, would cause a current across the Humber to carry any floating object, perhaps to North Ferraby.

design—successful both in commercial forms, of course, and in changing popular attitudes to the quality, functionality and aesthetics of new products which may not immediately be appreciated by a mass market.

In 1983 the Ford Sierra won a Design Council award which recognised a valuable change in car design. However, it took some time before the new shape was appreciated by the public. Was the design award wrong to recognise the value of the change?

I think not: it supported the innovation in the product and helped to secure its longer-term commercial success. Now, as the Sierra reaches the end of its manufacturing cycle, it leaves behind a changed market place with the styling of many car designs relating quite clearly to the Sierra.

Good design, considering both process and the end product specification, is a way to achieve outstanding commercial success. Selling lowest price products via technological attributes which have dubious value to the purchase is not a satisfactory future.

Yours sincerely,  
JOHN FISHER  
(Technical Director),  
PA Consulting Group,  
Cambridge Laboratory,  
Melbourn, Royston,  
Hertfordshire,  
October 12.

From Mr A. Gardner-Medwin

Sir, Stephen Bayley states that the promotion of "design" had its origins in the achievement of one man, Paul (later Lord) Reilly. I would be the first to acknowledge Reilly's achievements, but would point out that his influence dates from some ten years earlier.

In 1948 Reilly joined the then Council of Industrial Design, whose director was Gordon (later Sir Gordon) Russell, and it was his joint vision that planned and put into practice the many design services that were to become available to industry, retailers, exporters, educationalists and designers over the following years. Their policies effectively operated in the immediate aftermath of the 1951 Festival of Britain.

The Design Council awards did not become a "kiss of death", as Bayley alleges. I was responsible to the industrial division of the council from 1948 to 1963 and I know that the majority of award-winners found that their sales increased immediately and were sustained over the years.

Yours faithfully,  
A. GARDNER-MEDWIN,  
Rose Cottage,  
School Lane,  
Cookham Village,  
Berkshire.

spending on capital account. Let us build Jubilee Lines (pace Keynes, let us build two of them, and a railway from London to York for good measure). The funding should be on an index-linked basis.

In real terms, we should be prepared to pay up in the future, if by so doing we can loosen current constraints. Index-linking, moreover, would attach some operational meaning to Mr Lamont's much-derided inflation target.

As for Mr Lamont, the re-emergence of fiscal policy would presumably (although one wonders, these days) be a resignation matter.

Yours sincerely,  
JEREMY STONE,  
90 Cromwell Avenue, Highgate, N6.

From Professor George C. Allen

Sir, Two or three years ago we were being told that essential improvements in, for example, public transport could not be started for fear of the economy overheating. Now, with the economy cooled up, we are told that the essential improvements cannot be started for fear of inflation.

When will it be the right time to start them? Or is it just that Nanny has got in the habit of saying "no"?

I remain, Sir, your fellow sufferer from an impaired infrastructure,  
GEORGE C. ALLEN,  
4 East Street,  
Lewes, East Sussex,  
October 16.

Business letters, page 34

## Court ruling on caesarean birth

From Mrs Margaret Puxon, QC, FRCOG

Sir, Professor Ian Kennedy (report, "Caesarean 'wrong'", October 15) need not worry just yet, nor need your readers, that pregnant women are about to be reduced to "slave states", "chattels", and "ambulatory wombs" by the judgment of Sir Stephen Brown, president of the High Court Family Division, in *In Re S. (Adult: Surgical Treatment)*, misleadingly headlined "Power to order operation" in your Law Report (October 16).

The president did not order the mother to undergo surgery against her will; he declared that "the operation of caesarean section" which was proposed "is in the vital interests of the [mother] and the child" and "can lawfully be performed despite the [mother's] refusal to give her consent thereto".

Such an order does no more than absolve the surgeon from offending against the criminal law of assault and give him a defence to a claim for damages for assault in the civil courts if in fact he proceeds with the operation.

It is unlikely that any surgeon, even with the protection of such an order, would drag his patient kicking and screaming into the operating theatre; in fact the mother in this case put up no resistance.

Criticism of the order there will undoubtedly be on other grounds. The Court of Appeal in *In Re T. (Law Report, August 21)* was unanimous in upholding the individual's right to refuse medical treatment. Lord Donaldson saying that "the patient's right of choice exists whether the reasons for making that choice are rational, irrational, unknown or even non-existent". The only exceptions, he said, are when the refusal is given by a patient who does not have the capacity to decide by reason of mental illness, temporary confusion from e.g. drugs, or because of outside pressures (as in *In Re T.*).

In the present case no evidence was given of any such factors—indeed the mother had refused a caesarean in a previous confinement—and certainly the president gave no such reason for his order.

Doctors, patients and lawyers alike will be anxious for clarification of the position.

Yours faithfully,  
MARGARET PUXON,  
Francis Taylor Building,  
Temple, EC4,  
October 16.

## Religious offence

From Lord Ashbourne and others

Sir, The Independent Television Commission, until January 1, 1993, is the "broadcaster" on our main independent TV channels. We are disturbed that the ITC is now broadcasting material which many Christians find offensive but at the same time it has a code which effectively prohibits an evangelist such as Billy Graham inviting viewers to make a commitment to Jesus Christ.

The October 11 edition of *Spiriting Image* on ITV portrayed Jesus Christ as a grotesque "hippy". Although this was very brief, it established an alarming new precedent. The ITC issues codes that already offend many Christians, but this broadcast also, in our view, contravenes the 1990 Broadcasting Act.

Section 6(1) of that Act requires the Commission to do all that it can to ensure that nothing is included in its programmes which is likely to be offensive to public feeling. We hope the ITC will take early firm action.

Yours faithfully,  
ASHBOURNE,  
CALDECOTE,  
HALSBURY,  
MILVERTON,  
ORR-EWING,  
ROBERTSON,  
House of Lords,  
October 15.

## Weapon for our 'Times'

From Dr Bernard A. Richards

Sir, Amanda Hobson writes (letter, October 12) of cyclists causing "maximum consternation" to motorists by hitting vehicles with a rolled-up copy of *The Times*. It's not the first time this paper has been employed as a weapon of aggression. Thomas Hardy's first wife told Edmund Gosse that she was in the habit of beating her husband "with a rolled-up copy of *The Times*".

Yours,  
BERNARD RICHARDS,  
Brasenose College, Oxford,  
October 12.

From Mrs Margaret Marshall

Sir, Over 30 years ago, as a young classics graduate, I spent a month in Italy, by myself, looking at ancient Roman sites. I found that my weekly extravaganza, a copy of *The Times*, rolled-up, was most effective as a swat of impetuous Italian males, whether on Vespa or on foot.

Yours sincerely,  
MARGARET MARSHALL,  
2 Cairnshill Avenue, Belfast.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number—071-782 5046.







## OBITUARIES

## JOHN WARREN

John Lynton George Warren, GM, who won his George Medal when shells fell on Dover 50 years ago, died on October 3 aged 71. He was born on April 17, 1921.

LIEUTENANT John Warren, a young officer in the so-called "Baby Buffs", the young soldiers' battalion of the Royal East Kent Regiment, was at a Dover cinema in March 1942 when the port was hit by a salvo of 380mm shells from the long range guns of the German *Batterie Todt*, located in the Pas de Calais.

As the cinema was evacuated, he ran through the black-out towards Market Square where crowds were gathering outside the smouldering ruins of the Carlton Club, the Conservative Party headquarters in the town. Several members were already dead, but one woman was still trapped inside, beneath tons of masonry. Warren, a short wiry rugby wing, was the only man small enough to wriggle through a gap in the smoking building. While a fellow subaltern, Ronald Brownrigg (now a retired Church of England canon), held on to his legs, he burrowed his way ten feet into

the rubble. Boys from the regiment, many of whom had joined up from a local reform school, helped pass him two car jacks which Warren used to prop up a beam which was threatening to suffocate the woman.

He then lay by her side for five perilous hours, wiping her face and injecting her with morphine under shouted instructions from a doctor up above, while rescue teams, guided by Warren, struggled to free them.

Next morning at Old Park barracks, he was carpeted for being late on the parade ground — much to the subsequent chagrin of the adjutant, who first learned of the drama on reading the local newspaper. But Warren's bravery was later rewarded with the George Medal and the "Carlton Club Incident" has been given its place in the long history of Dover.

Shortly afterwards, Warren was posted to the Western desert with The Buffs 4th battalion, only to be captured in the following year while making part in the ill-fated British diversionary expedition to the Greek island of Lerou.

Imprisoned in Oflag 79 near Brunswick, he threw his



energies into organising a unique charity. Arguing that their conditions were no worse than those being suffered by young people at home, he and fellow prisoners-of-war collected £13,000 in promissory

notes and improvised cheques, most of which were honoured by the men on their release.

The fund went to the National Association of Boys' Clubs which, after challenging the British public to match the

PoWs' generosity, used the proceeds to found the celebrated Brunswick club in West London. Warren always retained his close interest in the venture.

Warren commanded a boy soldiers' unit after the war and briefly toyed with the idea of signing on — before leaving the army as a major in 1947 and beginning an entirely different career.

Born at Battle in Sussex, he had left King's School, Bruton, as soon as possible and become a bank clerk — then considered a safe profession with sound prospects. But he disliked that even more than he did school and joined the army on the outbreak of war, almost with relief.

So in 1947 he became a farmer. After 12 months gaining experience on an uncle's farm in Sussex he went to Shuteborough agricultural college in Bedfordshire, where he became the first president of the union and founded a students' magazine he christened *The Furrow*. He then worked for some time as a farm manager in Lincolnshire before inheriting, in 1955, a 200-acre farm in the River Wey valley which had been in his family for 200 years. There he built up a herd of

100 pedigree Jerseys and he was at one time chairman of the Southern Jersey Cattle Society. He also became deeply interested in conservation, partly through the River Wey Trust. He restored a number of 17th century aqueducts and water meadows on his own land and fought for the preservation of local commons and heathland. He had been driving home from a National Trust meeting when he was fatally injured in a motor accident.

Ten years ago he sold most of his land and partly retired, to write his own book *River Running By* and spend more time on public work for, among others, local schools and the boy scouts. The heir to a long family Methodist tradition, he was also appointed national coordinator of the 1988 celebrations to mark the 250th anniversary of John Wesley's conversion.

A bachelor until his mid-forties, he fell in love with a young schoolmistress, Marion Mackenzie, who came to preach in his local chapel. He courted her with fresh farm cabbages on his milk round, so successfully that they were married in 1967. John Warren is survived by her and and by their son.

## SIR NORMAN JEFFCOATE

Sir Norman Jeffcoate, Emeritus Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at Liverpool University, died on October 13 aged 85. He was born at Nuneaton, Warwickshire, on March 25, 1907.



NORMAN Jeffcoate had a disciplined Nonconformist upbringing. After the King Edward VI School, Nuneaton, he received medical training in Liverpool, and when he chose obstetrics as his career he was a pupil and disciple of William Blair-Bell, a founder and first president of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists.

The influences of Jeffcoate's earlier years moulded his outstandingly successful career, which was based on the same self-discipline and apparent austerity of his mentor, tempered with an underlying warmth of character and compassion. He joined the consultant staff of Liverpool Maternity Hospital in 1932, at the age of 25, and in due course he followed in Blair-Bell's footsteps as professor of obstetrics and gynaecology at Liverpool University, as convenor of the Gynaecological Visiting Society, which Blair-Bell had founded, and as president of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists.

Jeffcoate's competence in this field was as great as in any activity that took his fancy. After retirement, Jeffcoate characteristically felt strongly that he should not interfere in professional matters and he isolated himself from medical practice and medical politics to live in contented and peaceful retirement. Unfortunately, ill health was a chronic problem for him and for his wife, who died in 1981.

Increasing disability prevented Jeffcoate from venturing about to any great extent, but a warm welcome always awaited anyone who called upon him. With the passing of the years, his protégés have come to recognise how much they owed to Jeffcoate, and his influence on British obstetrics will be long-lasting.

Jeffcoate's intellectual capacity and his clarity and logic of thought were his main research tools and were the catalyst for much original work by his staff and by colleagues in other disciplines. They were also the basis of his success as a teacher, which culminated in his *Principles of Gynaecology*, a major textbook first published in 1957 and which rapidly became popular throughout the world.

Jeffcoate was by nature a retiring man and never ceased to be a little nervous of public appearances. Some of Jeffcoate's greatest contributions

to his college and obstetric practice were made when he was a power behind the scenes and architect and guide of various policy documents; many will know his true contribution. In 1969, having been vice-president of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, he was elected president and had a most successful period of office at a time when many changes were taking place.

Throughout his career, Jeffcoate was supported by his charming and forthright wife, Josephine, who always provided warm and delightful hospitality for visitors to their home, whether overseas dignitaries or junior staff. They had four sons who are pursuing, with conspicuous success, careers in medicine, architecture and teaching.

Jeffcoate had a great ability to adapt himself to circumstances and could be relied upon to rise to any occasion even though it might be foreign to his natural inclinations and personality. In contrast with his busy professional life and world-wide travel, he and his wife would take their holidays quietly in the countryside, usually in their native Isle of Man, where they enjoyed simple country pursuits and painting. Characteristically, Jeffcoate's competence in this field was as great as in any activity that took his fancy.

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## PETER LE HURAY

Peter Geoffrey Le Huray, organist and musicologist, died in Cambridge of cancer on October 7 aged 62. He was born in Norwood, south London, on June 18, 1930.



PETER Le Huray (known affectionately to students and colleagues alike as "PG") was a man of integrity: a painstaking scholar and an exceptionally dedicated teacher. He always expected high standards but was himself quietly modest and unassuming, a familiar figure on his bicycle as he pedalled around Cambridge, laden with books, his trousers neatly tucked into his socks.

Born in south London, Le Huray won an organ scholarship to St Catharine's College, Cambridge, where he was to spend most of the rest of his life. A brilliant student (he took a double first in the Music Tripos), he was also an organist of distinction, appearing as a soloist at the Proms and making many recordings and broadcasts. He was, however, deeply committed to his research, and after National Service re-

turned to St Catharine's as a research fellow, becoming a full lecturer and fellow in 1961. His research on the English anthem was supervised by Thurston Dart, who was one of the fathers of the "early music" movement, and whose influence on Le Huray was profound.

Indeed, Le Huray was in many ways solely responsible for keeping alive a performance practice element in the Music Tripos, purchasing period instruments for the Cudworth Collection housed in the

faculty, arranging lecture-recitals by Christopher Hogwood, Gustav Leonhardt and others and persisting in his conviction that the original fingering or the use of gut strings was integral to the performance of the music of Bach and his predecessors. Students (not to mention colleagues) were often initially sceptical, but Le Huray's rational and open-minded approach was persuasive and there is no doubt that he, like Dart, exerted considerable influence over many now well-established performers and musicologists.

Despite his organ-playing and his teaching and college commitments, Le Huray was always actively involved in editing and writing. During the 1960s he edited the *Proceedings of the Royal Musical Association* and became a series editor for Cambridge University Press. With John Stevens, he was responsible for establishing the Cambridge Studies in Music series and thus for creating the foundations of a highly respected music book list for the Press. He remained active as an adviser to CUP until just

before his death, reading a contribution by one of his former pupils — on the history of piano-pedalling — during what was to be his last summer. Le Huray's own first book, *Music and the Reformation in England, 1549-1660* (1967), quickly became the standard work on the subject and was reprinted in 1978, while his more recent titles, *Music and Aesthetics in the 18th and early 19th centuries* (1981) and *Authenticity in Performance* (1990), were published by CUP. At the time of his death Le Huray was working on a new project on a collection of essays on choral performance practice before and after the Reformation.

This was just one of many ideas he had hoped to see realised, having taken early retirement; no sooner was he free of the teaching to which he had dedicated his life than it was discovered that he had a brain tumour. Over the last year, his wife, Bridget, helped to keep those dreams alive, continuing to provide the support he had always given and, as it became necessary, acting as his memory.

## NORMAN HONEY

Norman Honey, OBE, former prison governor, died on September 30 aged 69. He was born on November 17, 1922.



NORMAN Honey was the longest-serving governor of Wormwood Scrubs, the "flagship" prison in recent times. In a career of 35 years, he spent eight (1972-80) in command of the prison.

Honey spent his early years in the prison service on the young offender side, developing a concern for improving the lot of prisoners. Norman Charles Honey was born in Devon into a prison service family, his father retiring as governor of Norwich prison. On leaving school, he went to the Post Office as a junior clerk. When the second world war broke out, he joined the Royal Engineers and rose to the rank of captain. He served in Italy and Greece and was mentioned in dispatches.

In 1947 he joined the prison service as an assistant governor and was posted to Havelock Grange, near Birmingham, where he met and married his wife. After a spell as governor of the borsal allocation centre at Wormwood Scrubs, he was given his first independent command at Reading, then a borsal recall and corrective centre. In 1966 he took charge of Rochester,

which was the original borsal institution.

In 1969 he was selected for promotion to governor class 1 and, after two years at headquarters, he moved to Wormwood Scrubs. He returned to headquarters for a short period before retiring in 1982.

Honey was appointed OBE in 1978 and became a Freeman of the City of London. He was always interested in the broader aspects of service life, playing cricket for a prison service staff team "The Broad Arrows" and organising occasional "Phoenix dinners" for senior prison service staff.

After retirement, he worked as a consultant for Chubb, travelling to Saudi Arabia and Singapore. Honey leaves a widow, Gwen.

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## Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Sir Thomas Browne, physician and writer, London, 1605 (died this day, Norwich, 1682); Leigh Hunt, essayist, Southgate, Middlesex, 1784; Alfred Dreyfus, French army officer wrongly imprisoned for spying, Mithras, Alsace, 1859; Auguste Lumière, pioneer of motion pictures, Besançon, 1862; Umberto Boccioni, sculptor, Reggio di Calabria, 1882.

DEATHS: King John, reigned 1199-1216, Newark, Nottinghamshire, 1216; Jonathan Swift, satirist, Dublin, 1745; Henry Kirke White, poet, Cambridge, 1806; François Talma, actor, Paris, 1826; Sir Charles Wheatstone, inventor, Paris, 1875; Cesare Lombroso, criminologist, Turin, 1909; Ernest Rutherford, Baron Rutherford of Nelson, physicist, Nobel laureate 1908, Cambridge, 1937; Edna St Vincent Millay, poet, Augusta, New York, 1950; Jacqueline du Pré, cellist, London, 1987.

The surrender of British troops under Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown virtually ending America's War of Independence, 1781; Napoleon began his retreat from Moscow, 1812; the siege of Mafeking began, 1899, lasting until May 1900; proclamation of the People's Republic of China, 1949.

## Birthdays today

Sir Leslie Boreham, former High Court judge, 74; Professor Sir Robert Boyd, physicist and astronomer, 70; Sir John Cullen, chairman, Health and Safety Commission, 66; Mr Bernard Hepton, actor, 67; Sir Robert Jennings, QC, president, International Court of Justice, 70; Mr John Le Carré, writer, 61; Mr Graham Lock, former chief executive, Amalgamated Metal Corp, 61; Mr Bill Morris, trades unionist, 54; Miss Mavis Nicholson, broadcaster, 62; Admiral of the Fleet Sir Michael Pollock, 70; Mr Allan Ramsay, diplomat, 55; Sir Chief Marshal Sir Anthony Skingley, 59; Sir Chief Marshal Sir Neville Sturt, 73; Sir Harold Walker, 60; Major Sir Patrick Wall, former MP, 76; Mr Peter Whiston, architect, 80.

Women of the Year Luncheon

The Duchess of Kent will be a speaker at the Women of the Year Luncheon, in aid of the Greater London Fund for the Blind, at the Savoy Hotel on Monday, October 26. The other speakers will be Ms Jung Chang, Ms Janet Street-Porter and Miss Helen Lederer.

## Royal engagements

The Princess of Wales, as Patron of Relate, will attend the film premiere of 1492 - The Conquest of Paradise at the Empire Cinema, Leicester Square, at 7.15 in aid of the NSPCC and Relate.

The Duke of Kent, as President of the Royal Television Society, will attend a dinner at the Royal Lancaster Hotel at 7.15.

Princess Alexandra will open the rebuilt kennel complex at the breeding centre of the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association at Tolgate House, near Warwick, at 1.50; and will open the refurbished Midlands Regional Training Centre at Edmonds Manor, Leamington Spa, at 2.50.

Memorial service

Mr W.B. Fagg

A memorial service for Mr William Butler Fagg was held on Saturday at the Church of Our Lady of the Assumption and St Gregory, Warwick Street, London. Father Francis David officiated, assisted by Mgr Alfred Gibley, Professor M.H. Day read the lesson and Dr B.J. Mack read from the works of Mother Julia of Norwich. Mr John Picon gave an address.

Nature notes

ON COLD, sunny mornings bull finches can be heard piping softly in the yellowing birch trees. At present they are feeding mainly on seeds, though some will turn their attention to plum and gooseberry buds next month. They have very silky plumage, the male's breast red and the female's brown; both sexes have black caps. Blackbirds are becoming more numerous in parks and large gardens, as immigrants arrive from the Continent. They are wild at first but grow more trusting if they are given bread on frosty days; eventually they will come calling for food with low, nasal clucks. The last summer migrants to leave Britain are a few yellow warblers and sand martins.

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## NEWS

## Backbenchers say 'back down'

Senior Conservative backbenchers will today tell John Major to back down over plans to close 31 pits or face defeat in the Commons on Wednesday. Eleven Tory MPs, including a senior member of the 1922 Committee executive, have said they will vote against the government and more are intent on abstaining.

Michael Heseltine, president of the Board of Trade, will unveil his package of help today but he remained adamant yesterday that he would not waver from his plans to make 30,000 miners redundant within six months. Page 1

## Quayle speaks of his ambition

Dan Quayle, the American vice-president, has told *The Times* that he has eyes on the next election in 1996. His colleagues concede that Bush was close to "debate". Page 1

## Health dispute

Brions will this week be urged to save their lives by having their cholesterol measured. But specialists writing in the *American Heart Association's* journal say new evidence indicates that universal screening and treatment of people with high blood cholesterol should end. Page 6

## Ulster ban opposed

The BBC has called on Peter Brooke, the heritage secretary, to repeal the Northern Ireland broadcasting ban imposed four years ago. Sir Michael Checkland, the BBC's director-general, said the ban was "an intervention by government into matters which should properly be the responsibility of independent broadcasters". Page 6

## Villagers protest

Opponents of a plan to open a large bail hostel in a Surrey village will today attempt to reverse the decision to use a former children's home to house alleged offenders. Page 7

## Autumn offensive

Millions of tiny stainless steel balls are being used by British Rail in their autumn offensive against wet leaves on the line. By adding steel balls to the sticky paste on the tracks to prevent skidding, engineers hope to improve conductivity. Page 7

## Frightened women

A third of Britain's women say they would never walk home in the dark, while more than half are frightened while in railway carriages during the day, according to a survey published today in the November issue of *She* magazine. Women in the South East and London are the most concerned and the least worried are in Wales. Page 7

## Archaeologist finds one of The Few

An amateur aviation archaeologist in Normandy has dug up the human remains and belongings of a second world war British pilot and his aircraft, the naval version of the Spitfire, which should identify the pilot and provide his family with news of his fate. In Essex, meanwhile, the bodies of a German aircrew have been found. Page 5



Open road: A UN armoured personnel carrier passes a container that had blocked the airport road from Sarajevo. Report, page 10

## BUSINESS

Good news: The CBI said high street sales were higher last month than a year earlier for the first time since June. This has not led to any upsurge in optimism, however, as trade is expected to relapse again this month. Page 36

Stores sale: Habitat is about to be sold to Ikea, the Swedish budget furniture retailer by its parent Storehouse. Sir Terence Conran, Habitat's founder and a former Storehouse chairman, is expected to fail in an attempt to buy it back for the second time. Page 33

Exotic insurance: Lloyd's of London, the troubled insurance market famed for insuring anything, has made a successful new drive to sell policies for unusual and exotic crops, including Canadian ginseng, Jamaican coffee, bees and silkworms. Page 36

## SPORT

Crude victory: Frank Bruno laboured to victory over Pierre Coetzee, of South Africa, in the IBF world-title eliminator at Wembley Arena on Saturday. Bruno used his greater weight to crude advantage before stopping his opponent in the eighth round. Pages 19, 21

Golf Victory: England's golfers won the Dunhill Cup by beating the auld enemy, Scotland, 2-1 in the final at St Andrews yesterday afternoon. In the semi-finals, England beat the United States 2-1 and Scotland beat Australia 2-1. The winning three-man team shared a prize of £300,000. Page 20

## WOMEN

Pit appeal: "This week's campaign has shown how much the men of today have learned from yesterday's women. For in the bitter struggle of 1984-5 the miners' wives grew in public respect". Page 13

Parting of names: Sally Bigg Gurnell, Britain's Olympic heroine is getting married today. If she were to follow the American example she could appear at the next Games with an extra name. Page 13

Late flowering: Dorothy Martin was a fanatical botanical artist, but her work has hardly been seen for half a century. Now 55 of her plates are to illustrate the 1993 Royal Horticultural Society diary. Page 13

## Private enterprise

When Benno Schmidt gave up the presidency of Yale University to head a project dreamt up by a maverick businessman from Knoxville, Tennessee, the education world was flabbergasted. But the project — a network of private schools — seems to be like an idea whose time has come. Page 30

Class acts: "They all do it — leave their intellectual integrity at home when called on to give up the faithful. There was an exactly parallel passage in Margaret Thatcher's conference speech in 1987." Stuart Machin on prime ministers and "solutions" to educational problems. Page 30



Iman, the wife of David Bowie, spoke of her emotional agony on returning to Somalia, the country of her birth, for the first time in 20 years. Page 10



Bobby Fischer re-quires just two more wins to clinch his self-styled "world chess championship", worth \$5 million, against Boris Spassky. Page 7



Mark Hughes scored two goals in the final 11 minutes to bring Manchester United a 2-2 draw against Liverpool in their Premier League match. Page 19



"Vive Willy Brandt" rang out at a gathering of Social Democrat leaders at a Berlin hotel on Saturday after the former Mayor's funeral. Page 9

## Tonight's choice

The RSPCA sleuths are off to the Continent, on the trail of a lorry-load of sheep and a shipment of pigs. The sleuths are fed and watered better than their quarry. *Animal Squad* 9pm on Channel 4. Listings, Page 35

## Backing down

This week's argument about the British coal industry is what Sigmund Freud would have called displacement activity. What MPs really worry about is the state of the economy. Page 15

## Wolf at the door

Russia's reformers fear that the conservative stronghold of the old party bureaucracy will slow down hated economic reforms. Page 15

## Excess of advice

From every side amateur bombard people with well-meant advice designed to avoid death. But moderation is the only sensible way. Page 15

## BERNARD LEVIN

"Surely the whole nation has by now realised that the banks — the entire banking system, not just this or that bank — constitute a shambles of incompetence, inaccuracy, ignorance, innumeracy and indifference." Page 14

## MATTHEW PARRIS

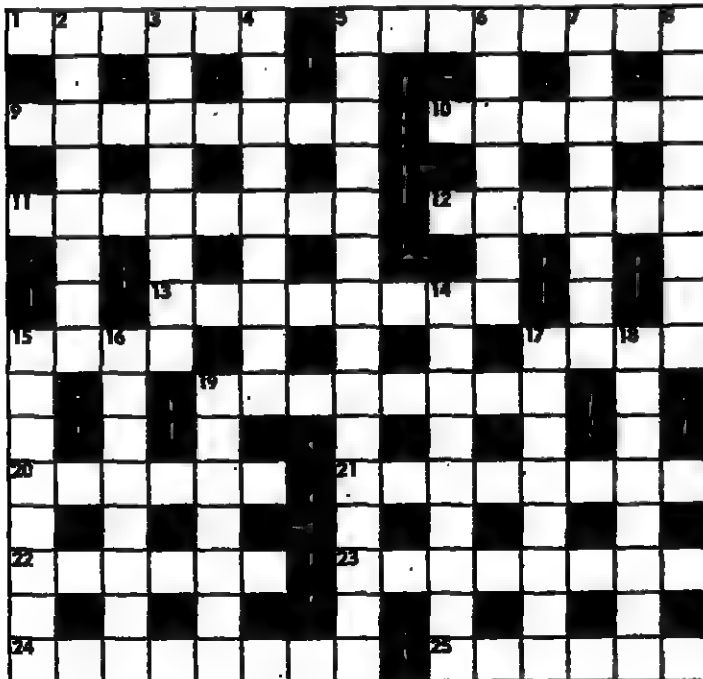
"I was born in 1949. Approaching the end of this century, do I amaze the young with my own unbelievable tales of Britain in the Fifties? I think not. Blink and you could be in the 1950s. My car, a Land Rover, actually is from the 1950s. So is my dinner jacket." Page 14

## PETER RIDDELL

"The Tories look likely to end the week on the defensive, but that is still a long way from a Labour knockout. Too many Labour leaders talk as if the Tories' victory was an aberration." Page 14

The future began in Richmond Thursday night. George Bush has joined pollsters and pundits in concluding that he has lost this election. He now seeks to preserve history's judgment on his presidency rather than sway the electorate's judgment on a new term. I find no other convincing explanation for the president's dispirited, disappointed and disengaged performance in Richmond. *Washington Post*

## THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,053



- ACROSS**
- Withdraw from contract (6).
  - Sedulous leader in grip of chief executioner (8).
  - Old man perhaps — a wise old man, about a hundred (8).
  - Space traveller in level orbit at last (6).
  - She gets a pass from a fighter in the ring (8).
  - Polish, but like another tongue in utterance (6).
  - One thoroughfare taken along with another, for example (8).
  - Stake transfixing Transylvanian terror (4).
  - Gem not right for ring (4).
  - Carefree bride on a jaunt (8).
  - Fugitive lacking heart in airport departure area (6).
  - Attempt to contain a nuisance by design of sewer (8).
- DOWN**
- Incongruous architectural style gets royal introduction (6).
  - Pictures commonly disapproved of in house replaced (8).
  - A case of possession? (8).
  - Endorsed slight alteration in design (6).
  - Unwelcome dependant causes irritation in unpaid host (6-2).
  - One rising City business providing security for frozen assets (3-5).
  - It is mounted below the gear to keep watch for flier (9).
  - A horse trained to produce classical racers (4,3,8).
  - Daughter joined in marriage perhaps, having flurried (7).
  - Part of the bill for service with meals (8).
  - Teachers taking form in this shortly (8).
  - Harvest fruit comes up again (9).
  - Frightening gangster procuring weapons (8).
  - Refuge to reduce the volume (4,4).
  - It's urgent — requiring use of club in 227 (8).
  - Clive ground with rage in upset (5).
  - Mounted foray first described by Evelyn, say (7).

**PARKER DUOFOLD**

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 19,052 will appear next Saturday. The 5 winners will receive a Duofold fountain pen supplied by Parker

Complete Crossword, page 36

## TIMES WEATHERCAST

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0800 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Region	Forecast
Central London	701
East London	702
West London	703
North London	704
South London	705
East of London	706
West of London	707
North of London	708
South of London	709
East of London	710
West of London	711
North of London	712
South of London	713
East of London	714
West of London	715
North of London	716
South of London	717
East of London	718
West of London	719
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East of London	734
West of London	735
North of London	736
South of London	737
East of London	738
West of London	739
North of London	740
South of London	741
East of London	742
West of London	743
North of London	744
South of London	745
East of London	746
West of London	747
North of London	748
South of London	749
East of London	750

Weathercast is charged at 30p per minute (cheap rates) and 40p per minute at all other times.

## AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.

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North London	704
South London	705
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West of London	711
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## WEATHER

The South-East will be cloudy with rain, some heavy. Central, southern and South-West England, the Channel Islands, south Wales, the Midlands and East Anglia will be cloudy with rain, turning brighter. Northern England, north Wales, the Isle of Man and southern and eastern Scotland will be sunny with showers, turning to sleet and snow in Northern Ireland and northern and western Scotland. Outlook: Sunny with showers.

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## HIGHEST &amp; LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Salcombe, Devon, 14C (57F); lowest day temp: Ayr, 6C (43F). Highest night temp: 11C (52F); lowest night temp: 4C (39F). Wind: 1-10 mph. Rain: 1-10 mm. Sun: 1-10 hours.

## MANCHESTER

Yesterday: Temp: max 6am to 9pm, 10C (50F); min 9pm to 6am, 4C (39F). Rain: 1-10 mm. Sun: 1-10 hours.

## LONDON

Yesterday: Temp: max 6am to 9pm, 10C (50F); min 9pm to 6am, 4C (39F). Rain: 1-10 mm. Sun: 1-10 hours.

## The South-East will be cloudy

with rain, some heavy. Central, southern and South-West England, the Channel Islands, south Wales, the Midlands and East Anglia will be cloudy with rain, turning brighter. Northern England, north Wales, the Isle of Man and southern and eastern Scotland will be sunny with showers, turning to sleet and snow in Northern Ireland and northern and western Scotland. Outlook: Sunny with showers.

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## AA ROADWATCH

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Shredlin	6.5	-	10	50	suny
Southend	7.5	-	10	50	suny
Southport	8.5	-	10	50	suny
Stamoway	1.8	0.18	9	48	showr
Tenaghmull	7.4	-	11	52	suny
Tenaghmull	2.8	0.18	6	30	showr
Tiree	1.3	0.04	10	50	showr
Torquay	7.2	-	12	64	suny
Torquay	6.8	0.19	6	45	showr
Warrington	5.8	-	8	40	suny

	Bank	Bank
Australia \$	2,415	2,435
Austria Sch	18.35	18.35
Belgium Franc	53.75	48.85
Canada \$	2.22	2.06
Denmark Kr	10.11	10.11
Finland Mark	8.58	7.74
France Fr	8.85	8.13
Germany DM	2.60	2.60
Italy Lire	336.00	315.00







Victory over Lyle secures golf team triumph as Scotland slip up on home ground

## Cool Gilford guides England home

By MITCHELL PLATT, GOLF CORRESPONDENT

DAVID Gilford yesterday completed a memorable first appearance at the home of golf by galvanising England to a famous victory against Scotland in the final of the Alfred Dunhill Cup at St Andrews.

Gilford, 27, produced a wonderful finish on the venerable Old Course for a round of 71, with which he beat Sandy Lyle by three shots. He also had the satisfaction of winning each of his five matches during the event.

His success ensured that England, who beat Scotland in the 1987 final, won the £300,000 first prize. Steven Richardson had already moved past Gordon Brand Jr with a 71 to a 73. Jamie Spence, the England captain, was entitled to a wry smile as he tucked his cheque for £100,000 in his pocket, despite not having won a point. He did, however, score 69 yesterday to have with Colin Montgomerie.

Gilford was especially delighted because his performance provided admirable recompense for his last international appearance. In the Ryder Cup at Kiawah Island 12 months ago he was forced to stay on the sidelines after the American, Steve Pate, withdrew from the singles.

"I was bitterly disappointed at Kiawah, but I'm hoping to play in the next Ryder Cup," Gilford said. "I had not played the Old Course until this week and so to win makes it all the more rewarding for me."

England's three musketeers were also particularly pleased as Spence had stressed at the start of the week that they had something to prove because Nick Faldo, the world No. 1, was not available.

Richardson, out in 33, was always in control against Brand (38). Gilford and Lyle enjoyed a fascinating duel as the sun finally condescended to shine, although it was still bitterly cold. Gilford took the

lead at the 14th when he two-putted from 50 feet for a birdie, and he stretched his advantage by holing from 11 feet for another birdie at the 16th.

Gilford remained composed despite going through the green at the Road Hole. He rolled his first putt up the bank to ten feet past the hole, and from there he coaxed the ball in to save his par. Lyle winced. He knew there was no way back.

Frost had forced officials to delay the start of the semi-finals by one hour. The Americans, however, were quickly into their stride against England. Fred Couples holed from 18 feet at the 1st, Davis Love III hit a gorgeous eight-iron to within one foot, and Tom Kite drilled a five-iron to within a similar distance at the 2nd, all for birdies.

Couples was out in 33 to Gilford's 34, but Gilford made a birdie at the 14th with a wedge to seven feet, from where he holed. Couples was dogged by misfortune on the greens, one putt after another slipping out, and at the 17th, after an exquisite recovery from the Road Hole bunker, his attempt to salvage a par from five feet missed the cup without disappearing.

Gilford, ahead for the first time, admitted that he had rarely felt more nervous on a course. He still made a good four at the 18th, and Couples was beaten when his putt at 24 feet lipped out.

Richardson, out in 34 to Love's 35, was by that time in control — he won with a 68 to a 71 — and England were assured of a place in the final in spite of Kite's 71 being one shot too good for Spence.

The United States team had good reason to feel disappointed. They were 12 under par for the tournament whereas England and Scotland were only two under. Kite, the US captain, said: "We did not play as well today as we thought we



Cup of cheer: Richardson, left, Spence, centre, and Gilford toast England's Alfred Dunhill Cup triumph

## Swedes add to their laurels

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES IN TAIPEI

would, and it just shows that over 18 holes anything can happen."

Montgomerie led Scotland to victory against Australia with an outstanding round of 68 with which he beat Ian Baker-Finch, the Open champion in 1990, by four shots. He took the lead by holing putts of nine feet and ten feet for birdies at the 10th and 12th respectively, but there might have been a change of fortune at the Road Hole.

There, Montgomerie hit a poor second shot which left him with an awkward pitch, and Baker-Finch's three-iron landed on the green, only for the ball to run over the back onto the red shale path. Montgomerie played his pitch and ran to six feet and holed, but Baker-Finch failed to get up and down in two.

Lyle beat Roger Davis, who took six at the 17th, with a 69 to a 73. Greg Norman retained his unbeaten record in the competition with a 68 to finish five shots ahead of Gordon Brand Jr.

LISELOTTE Neumann and Helen Alfredsson confirmed Sweden's status as a golf power when they won the Sunrise Cup, the inaugural women's professional world team championship, at the Sunrise golf and country club, near Taipei, yesterday.

They finished with a team total of 445, 13 over par, two shots ahead of Laura Davies and Trish Johnson, of England, with the United States team of Meg Mallon and Jane Geddes third, a further six shots behind.

The Swedes were paired together in Europe's win over the United States in the Solheim Cup, in which they dropped only half a point between them. "We made this our goal after the Solheim," Neumann said. "We've known each other since we were 12 or 13 but we hadn't

played that much together."

The scoring reflected the fearsome conditions which left players, caddies and officials exhausted. They completed 27 holes on Saturday and, with the wind gusting up to 40 miles per hour yesterday, the third and final round took nearly six hours to complete.

Neumann, whose second round of 70 in similar conditions on Saturday was described by one observer as the best round of the year, took four putts at the 13th on Sunday. "I just lost my concentration," she said.

The Swedes were still three strokes ahead of the English with one to play, but showing signs of struggling after dropping seven shots in 47 holes. At the 18th, a par five of 471 yards with a lake guarding the green, only Davies had the power to go for the green

in two. She had 204 yards to the pin and found the green with the sweetest driver possible, Neumann left herself a 45-foot downhill putt.

Davies missed her three and Johnson narrowly missed a 25-foot birdie putt. Alfredsson had a par and Neumann got down in two to the Johnson for the individual award.

LEADING FINAL SCORES: 445: Sweden (L. Neumann 71, 70, 76; H. Alfredsson 75, 76, 75); 447: England (T. Johnson 71, 72, 78); 451: Australia (J. Baker-Finch 74, 75, 76); 452: United States (G. Mallon 74, 75, 76); 453: Scotland (D. Love 74, 75, 76); 454: South Africa (J. L. Brand 74, 75, 76); 455: New Zealand (J. L. Brand 74, 75, 76); 456: Korea (J. L. Brand 74, 75, 76); 457: Japan (J. L. Brand 74, 75, 76); 458: Taiwan (J. L. Brand 74, 75, 76); 459: Hong Kong (J. L. Brand 74, 75, 76); 460: Singapore (J. L. Brand 74, 75, 76); 461: Malaysia (J. L. Brand 74, 75, 76); 462: Philippines (J. L. Brand 74, 75, 76); 463: Thailand (J. L. Brand 74, 75, 76); 464: Vietnam (J. L. Brand 74, 75, 76); 465: Laos (J. L. Brand 74, 75, 76); 466: Cambodia (J. L. Brand 74, 75, 76); 467: Myanmar (J. L. Brand 74, 75, 76); 468: Brunei (J. L. Brand 74, 75, 76); 469: Timor-Leste (J. L. Brand 74, 75, 76); 470: East Timor (J. L. Brand 74, 75, 76); 471: West Bank (J. L. Brand 74, 75, 76); 472: Gaza Strip (J. L. 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Srikumar Sen sees Britain's popular heavyweight move a stumbling step closer to a world title challenge

# Bruno resorts to trickery in game of survival

FRANK Bruno joined the dirty tricks brigade at Wembley arena on Saturday. He used his weight advantage of 1st 10lb (17st 6lb to Coetzer's 15st 10lb) to rough up Pierre Coetzer, of South Africa, for eight rounds and then club him into submission.

Bruno used every trick not in the book: barging, pulling, leaning, holding, hitting low, elbowing, shouldering — the lot — to stay in contention for the world title. This should not affect Bruno's "nice Frank" reputation because it was not done so much out of meanness as self-preservation.

Besides, "pro tricks", as they are known, are much admired in boxing: rather like swearing in certain quarters. If you do not use them, you have not grown up. It is the worldly thing to do.

Alan Towell, Coetzer's manager, said: "If Frank fights like this in America, he could well do it. This is the way to do it. If you get an American ref, he turns a blind eye to these tactics. A performance like this would frighten Americans."

Coetzer, nursing two lovely black eyes, had no complaints. "He's a strong fighter," Coetzer said admiringly. "He hit me with a good right hand [the one that put him down in the eighth]. There were some dirty tactics, but I'm not making any excuses. It was one of the hardest fights I've had. The hardest was Riddick Bowe. Both Bruno and Bowe are pig punchers but Bowe has faster hands."

"I never go in to fight dirty, I've got to protect myself," Bruno said. "Believe me, it's not table tennis in there. I'm not doing a pantomime. You've got to do what you can do to win. It's a serious business."

"It has a lot to do with maturity and I've got strength in body, and mentally I'm more experienced than when I was 20 or 21 when I first started. It was a hard fight I had to dig for. He was determined, tough and had plenty of heart."

George Francis, Bruno's trainer, said: "The Americans don't pussyfoot. They don't want to come second and there's no way Frank is going to come second. I instilled this in John Conish and Cornelius Bone-Edwards and they both went on to become world champions. I want Frank to be an aggressive fighter and he's getting that way. It's all right having the gentlemanly tag, but you've got to be as tough or tougher than the next man."

Mickey Duff, the promoter, thought that Bruno's performance was better than Bowe's against Coetzer. "Bruno dropped him, Bowe didn't," Duff said. "People on TV can't fail to be impressed. Frank gave hope. The Doubting Thomases have to be quiet. We have a better chance of meeting Shelley Finkel's demands. A fight



The storm before the calm: Bruno punishes Coetzer at Wembley and ponders, yesterday, the road to the top. Mickey Duff hopes that pinnacle will be reached by April next year



is as good as the money it can generate."

Finkel, who is one of the managers of Evander Holyfield, the world champion, had said that £2 million was not enough to accept a challenge from Bruno.

It is all very well for Bruno's connections to encourage such tactics. They have an interest in Bruno surviving, no matter how, to bring the big returns from big fights. But it does not make for good boxing and Bruno did not box well.

"Tricks are not for winners, but professional survivors. Further, it is a dangerous thing to do. If Bruno gets a reputation for fighting dirty, managers can complain to the boxing body before an important bout and ensure that the referee takes action in the ring. Bruno could be penalised points or even disqualified."

Just as swearing more often than not reveals the extent of a vocabulary, so too Bruno's methods exposed his boxing limitations.

Such tactics are all very well when they are additions to an extensive repertoire, but not if they are your sole defensive weapon, as it was in Bruno's case. It is all right for a 17st 6lb bully to kick sand in the face of a 15st 10lb man, but you would need rather more than dirty tricks when you are up against another 17st 6lb man who knows what you are up to and can box as well.

A big man like Lennox Lewis would not have been troubled. Lewis said he would have knocked Bruno out in five rounds.

Despite his weight advantage, Bruno could not keep the South African out with his jab, which lacked snap; he could not find the space for leverage or to shape into his big punches; he looked constantly in a harassed state and continually backed away in great confusion with his arms and chin waving about in the air.

At one stage, Bruno looked like a man with two right feet as he found himself involuntarily in the southpaw position and pushing out a right that he did not want to throw.

Until he caught Coetzer with a left and a chopping right in the eighth round, he never looked safe and throughout the bout you felt a punch at any moment from the South African could change everything.

Francis admitted that 17st 6lb was too heavy a weight for Bruno to carry and said that the next time he would be a couple of pounds under 17 stone. "It was my fault," Francis said.

"I saw how heavy Riddick Bowe

was when he fought Coetzer and I thought the weight would suit Bruno too, I was wrong."

Francis said there were a lot of things that would have to be corrected, particularly Bruno's tendency to stick his chin in the air when retreating.

"Coetzer was a good opponent, he has a good chin and gets up off the floor," he said.

"I knew he would give a hard fight. He had done his homework. His plan was to keep the pressure on Frank; to keep him off balance. When Frank kept going back, I noticed his chin was sticking up too high. I have to change that."

The trainer explained that Bruno's chin went up in the air when

he started to retreat by moving the front foot first.

"I'll have to get his head down," Francis said. "Once he's had a rest, Frank and I are going to watch the video and talk about it and sort it out. Don't forget he's only had three rounds in three years."

"I gave him 200 rounds of sparring. I've never done that to any of my fighters, but I had to do that. He was doing everything right in the gym but gym work is nothing like the actual stuff and he could not do the same in the ring. There were times when I gave him some Covent Garden language in the corner, but overall I was pleased because the eight rounds did him more good than all the rounds in the gym. He's going to benefit from it and learn. He's a willing horse and works very hard. I promise you, he'll be 50 per cent better next time."

Bruno plans to box again in the new year. Duff wants to put him in

for the world title bout in April, but if Holyfield chooses to box the winner of the bout between Lewis and Donovan "Razor" Ruddock, then Bruno will meet one of four opponents next: James Bonecrusher Smith, Tim Witherpoon, Tommy Morrison or Ray Mercer.

Duff would like one of the first two to wipe out the memory of defeat, but the decision rests with Bruno.

"I'd love to fight Holyfield, but he is defending against Riddick Bowe on November 13," Bruno said. "If Bowe wins, I don't know what route he will take. If he doesn't need me, then I will keep busy; keep the body oiled."

□ Mickey Duff has made representations to the European Boxing Union for Gary Jacobs to be awarded a rematch with Ludovic Proto for the vacant European welterweight championship. Their bout in Paris last Friday ended in a controversial points victory for Proto.

**'I never go in to fight dirty, I've got to protect myself. Believe me, it's not table tennis in there. I'm not doing a pantomime.'**

## SQUASH: PIMM'S LEAGUE BEGINS NINTH SEASON TONIGHT

### Jansher missing from premier crop

By COLIN MCQUILLAN

THE Pimm's premier league begins its ninth season tonight as another symbol of our times. Wage-capped by team owners and deprived of lucrative prize money, the league has been reduced to a financially constrained governing body, the first division promises, nonetheless, to be a keen contest from the first fixture.

The world champion, Jansher Khan, is registered for Princes in the second division. A new rule limiting first division clubs to one player from the world's top eight forced him out of Leekes Wizards, the Cardiff squad already having Chris Robertson, of Australia, as well as Peter Marshall, the British champion.

Jansher earned £2,000 a match from Wizards last season in their run to the league title. This year, unofficial action between owners limits first-string fees to £500 a match, with lower-order players paid pro rata.

The world champion will not turn out for that sort of

money, but will play for Princes, apparently to establish his European training base. Rodney Martin, the world No. 4, has also refused to play for £500 in the British league when he can earn two or three times as much in France and Germany.

Their absence, added to that of the now-retired ten-time British Open champion, Jahangir Khan, reduces the first-string quality of the league.

But hard times breed tough competition, and nothing exemplifies the maxim in squash more than the appearance of

St Mellons to fill the gap left by the late withdrawal of Edgbaston Priory.

St Mellons signed Tristan Nancarrow, of Australia, Derek Ryan, of Ireland, and Berkshire's wily Martin Boddinade to strengthen the combative Welsh squad that carried them through the second division last season. Their one ambition for the season is to defeat Wizards when they meet at St Mellons Country Club in Castleton on October 26.

First, though, Nancarrow will be tested tonight at Lambeth

Club in London, where Brett Martin, the elder brother of Rodney, takes over from Jahangir as the foreign leader of a squad including Christopher Walker, Simon Parke, Paul Gregory and Bryan Beeson.

Cannons, the other London club, have retained their Australian first string, Chris Dittmar, to lead the likes of Del Harris, Tony Hands, Peter Nicol and Paul Carter. But they have released Ross Norman, of New Zealand, to Surbiton.

At Village Manchester, Mark Maclean, the Scottish No. 1, will lead Mark Cairns, Matthew Oxley, David Campbell, Paul Lord and others in the only completely domestic squad. Rackets have signed Gary Waite, of Canada, and Glen Wilson, of New Zealand, to back the Scottish champion, Colin Keith, and their Corringham-based youngsters.

Lingfield, the newly promoted Surrey club, have added Craig Van der Walt, of South Africa, to the squad which dominated the second division last season.

- CANNONS:** Venue: Cannons Club, London. Leading players: C Dittmar, D Harris, A Harris, P Carter, P Nicol, N Hanley, P Quirke.
- JANES:** Venue: Lambeth Club, London. Leading players: B Martin, R Eyles, S Boddin, D Ryan, P Parke, P Gregory, S Beeson.
- ST MELLONS:** Venue: St Mellons Country Club, Castleton, Cardiff. Leading players: T Nancarrow, D Ryan, M Boddin, D Potts, A Evans, G Davies, A Gough.
- LINGFIELD:** Venue: Lingfield Squash and Leisure Club, Surrey. Leading players: C Van der Walt, S Meade, P Steel, C Payne, M Allen, G Miller, T Garner.
- RACKETS:** Venue: Rackets Club, Corringham, Essex. Leading players: G Waite, C Keith, G Wilson, R Graham, D Webb, P Johnson, N Cass.
- SURBITON:** Venue: Surbiton Squash Club, Surrey. Leading players: R Norman, J Hargrave, D Macdonald, L Lee, N Siles, A Thomson, A Couch.
- VILLAGE MANCHESTER:** Venue: Village Hotel, Hyde, Manchester. Leading players: M Maclean, M Cairns, M Oxley, D Campbell, P Lord, J Lilley, G Twissell.
- LEEKES WIZARDS:** Venue: National Sports Centre, Cardiff. Leading players: C Robertson, P Marshall, J Nicol, P Whitlock, A Davies, H Wines, R Owen.

## BASEBALL

### Glavine clips Blue Jays' wings to put Braves on victory trail

FROM KEITH BLACKMORE IN ATLANTA

TOM Glavine rediscovered his form at exactly the right moment here on Saturday, pitching the Atlanta Braves to a 3-1 win over the Toronto Blue Jays in the opening game of the World Series.

It was not entirely a solo effort — Damon Berryhill, the catcher, knocked in all of Atlanta's runs, with a home run in the sixth inning — but Glavine had special cause for satisfaction.

This year and last, he has been the Braves' most successful pitcher, but a dismal performance in the sixth game of the National League playoffs on Tuesday, in which he gave up eight runs in two innings, had obscured his excellent record in the season (20 wins, eight losses).

On Saturday, he pitched a complete game, allowing only four hits and making one bad pitch in 126. In the process, he had some revenge on the Toronto starting pitcher, Jack Morris, who led the Minnesota Twins to victory over the Braves in the World Series last year. Morris's presence, and the 20 wins he managed in the regular season, have had

#### DETAILS

Team	Inning	Runs	Hits	Errors
Toronto	000 100 000	1	4	0
Atlanta	000 000 000	3	4	0

would have been enough for Black Jack. This year, it precipitated his defeat.

In the bottom of the fourth, with two men out, he walked (missed the strike zone with four pitches) two batters, only saving himself with a strike-out. In the fifth, he did the same, walking two (one of them Glavine — an unpardonable error), with two men out, and though he saved himself again, the Braves' war party scented blood.

Sure enough, in the sixth, Morris walked another and then gave up a single. One out later, with two men on base, he threw a forkball to Berryhill. A forkball is supposed to curve downwards, luring the batter into a fruitless swing; this one stayed up and Berryhill clouted it into the left-field bleachers.

Morris was gone by the seventh, but Glavine never looked back. "To sit here for the last few days and read how terrible I have been recently has been aggravating. I must admit," he said.

The secret of his success was a simple one. "I just didn't want to walk anybody because whenever I do that I get into trouble," he said. Black Jack would know what he meant.

## THE TIMES SPORTS SERVICE

### COMPETITION

**SPORITIS**

The Times, in association with Sky Sports, offers readers the opportunity to win a luxury package to the world heavyweight boxing championship eliminator bout between Lennox Lewis and Razor Ruddock at Earls Court on Saturday, October 31.

The first prize includes a pair of ringside seats, bed and champagne breakfast at the White House Hotel, Regent's Park, travel expenses and a pair of Lewis's boxing gloves, signed by him. The five runners-up will each receive a pair of tickets to the bout, worth £75.

To enter, study the three questions and telephone your answers, with your name, address and telephone number, to the number below. The winner will be selected at random from all correct entries telephoned by midnight tomorrow and notified by telephone on Wednesday. Normal Times competition rules apply.

Sky Sports has live and exclusive coverage of the bout at 10.30pm on October 31.

**Question 1:** Which country did Lennox Lewis represent in the 1988 Olympic Games?

**Question 2:** At which weight did Lennox Lewis win an Olympic gold medal?

**Question 3:** Whom did Lennox Lewis beat in his last bout?

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### Hesitant Le Moignan fails England

By COLIN MCQUILLAN

A TALENTED but frustrated England team finished third in the women's world team championship. They beat Holland 3-0 on Saturday and watched the title they have held since 1985 travel to Australia by way of New Zealand.

The Australians dropped only two rubbers in the entire championship and those only to Susan Devoy, New Zealand's world champion, who retired here after a bravura display of total superiority.

Drawn in the semi-final against a New Zealand team regarded merely as Devoy and two friends, England levelled with a 9-1, 9-1, 9-1 third-string victory by Lisa Ople over

Marie Pearson after Cassandra Jackman's 2-9, 9-3, 9-4, 9-4 loss to the world's greatest player, Martine Le Moignan was expected to clinch a final place for the squad against Donna Newton, a 30-year-old unranked, part-time player, despite an alarming drop in form after a humiliating defeat in the individual semi-final a week earlier.

With Sue Wright, the young British champion, waiting in the wings, Le Moignan, 29, the former world champion, knew she needed a positive performance. Instead, she panicked from the opening rally, lost the six-minute first game to Newton's shrewd front-court early-ball attack,

froze on five game-balls in the second game and surrendered a lead of 6-3 in the third game to lose 3-9, 9-10, 6-9.

Alex Cowie, the England manager, had agonised over the selection and eventually decided that a win over Newton might enliven Le Moignan in case she was needed for the final.

The Australians showed in the final how to deal with the top-heavy New Zealand challenge, sending Robyn Lambourne on to drive straight and hard through Newton's front-court game to secure their first title since 1983.



Le Moignan: panicked

Results, page 24

## CYCLING

### Longbottom climbs into contention

PETER Longbottom yesterday cleared the final hurdle in the run-up to the national hill climb championship at Blaydon next Sunday (Peter Bryan writes). With Chris Boardman, the Olympic champion, preferring not to defend his title, Longbottom's victory in the Knaresborough invitation hill 29-mile trial near Ripon confirmed his late-season form.

The Knaresborough event, with its demanding climbs of Granby Bank and Sawley Bank, is often a sound barometer for the British championship, and Longbottom demonstrated that there is still untapped power in his legs.

He beat Stuart Dangerfield, the championship silver medal-winner in 1991, by 36 seconds, recording a personal best time of 1hr 12min 40sec. The Wales champion, Mark Thomas, trailed in third

more than two minutes adrift. Longbottom was driving north the moment the prize presentation was over, his destination Chapel Fell, the hill for the title climb on Sunday, but accepts that the reconnaissance may not be enough to hold off the favourite, Jeff Wright, the specialist from Tyneside who will be competing on his "home" hill. Wright, second last year, won two hill climbs on Saturday.







magic help  
the trend

**FORECAST:** Dividends will be good with nine score-draws and two no-score draws. Telephone claims required for 24 points.

















## TELEVISION page 28

Alan Bates discovers  
there is life after  
the British Raj, in last  
night's BBC screen play

## ARTS

## THEATRE page 29

Bruised by Chichester,  
challenged by Sheffield:  
Michael Rudman on a  
sudden scene-change



The first "political ballet", created in Hitler's Germany, will be revived tonight. Debra Craine reports

## When warmongers led the dance

Ballet does not often dip its delicate toe into the turbulent waters of politics. Pristine dancing slippers are easily offended by such murky goings-on. But when Kurt Jooss set about making a dance-drama in 1932 Germany, he could not help himself. Politics was in the air.

The result was *The Green Table*, the world's first mainstream political ballet and one of the most enduring dance creations of the 20th century. In the 60 years since, other choreographers have taken up politically conscious themes — Kenneth MacMillan in *Valley of the Shadings*, Christopher Bruce in *Ghost Dances* — but nothing has struck a greater chord with the public than this modest anti-war satire from Essen.

Jooss created *The Green Table* just as Hitler was taking control, when only a small minority were waking up to the full implications of the political ideology they had embraced. The work was his way of warning the German public that its leaders were preparing for war. In the event, it proved eerily prescient. It also scored an immediate artistic success, winning first prize for Jooss and his company, the Folkwang Tanzbühne, at a choreographic competition in Paris in 1932. Extraordinary demand followed. *The Green Table* went on to become one of the most frequently performed ballets of the Thirties, Forties and Fifties throughout Europe and America, and it was eventually taken into the repertoire of more than 30 companies.

Now, to mark the sixtieth anniversary of its creation, comes a long overdue revival. A new production for Birmingham Royal Ballet opens tonight. It has been produced by the choreographer's daughter, Anna Markard, who was also responsible for its last staging in Britain — for Northern Ballet Theatre — 20 years ago.

What gave the ballet its remarkable longevity is the universality of its theme. Neither the pre-war German Expressionism of its style nor the anti-Nazi agitprop of its text have prevented *The Green Table* from finding a new audience with every passing decade.

"There is still a powerful statement coming through," says Peter Wright, director of Birmingham Royal Ballet, who began his career as a dancer with Jooss in England 40 years ago. "It's relevant because there is the constant threat of war, different types of war. Look at the rise of new Nazis: everyone turns a blind eye to it, which is exactly what happened in the 1930s."

So today you can substitute Yugoslavia for Hitler's Germany and the message is the same. "It



Tabling a motion: a scene from the original German production of Kurt Jooss's 1932 *The Green Table*, being revived tonight by Birmingham Royal Ballet

has nothing to do with Nazi Germany: it's a dance of death," explains Markard. "It's pacifist, humanitarian and can be applied to all times. It would not have any of the significance that it has today if it only applied to one very tragic mistake of mankind. It applies to many mistakes."

*The Green Table* is a narrative, told in a series of episodes which begin and end with ten masked figures in coat-tails facing each other angrily across a green baize table. The figures are often described as diplomats, but Markard disagrees. "They are bankers, high financiers, oil magnates, arms manufacturers, all those people who profit from war and involve others in war."

And war is the name of their game. In the central section the

Gentlemen in Black are replaced by the figure of Death who proceeds to tick off his victims one by one — a soldier, an old woman, a female partisan — before parading them across the stage in a macabre dance. The ballet was initially inspired by the Dance of Death, the medieval allegory of the supremacy of death over mankind. "It takes the medieval idea that the way you live will determine how you will die," Markard says. "The other motif is that every man must die. We are all victims: death is omnipotent."

Told with deceptive simplicity, little in the way of decorative trimmings, and using Fritz Cohen's two-piano instrumentation, *The Green Table* proved that economy of movement and scale could pack a mightier punch than

the overblown 19th-century spectacles which Jooss sought to reform. Dismissed by classicists as too modern, and by modernists as too classical, the German was hard to pigeonhole. Yet he always thought of himself as a ballet choreographer, despite his limited knowledge of the classical technique, and in later years he even took to using pointe work in his choreography.

Jooss paid for his politics. In 1933 he fled his homeland, not out of fear for his own safety but as a protest against what the Essen authorities were doing. "They were very interested in this talented choreographer but they didn't want any Jews in his company," Markard explains. "My father was an example of someone who protested: he was really a

political refugee. He and the whole company left together in the middle of the night. The Gestapo was on the doorstep the next morning."

For the next 16 years Jooss toured with his company, there was a six-week Broadway season in 1933, a season at the Savoy in London. His company found a home in England, first Devon, then Cambridge, even touring during the war years with ENSA, which demanded *The Green Table* to entertain the troops. At a time when our national ballet was still finding its own feet, Ballets Jooss caused a sensation in Britain.

In 1949 Jooss was invited back to Germany to rebuild his school in Essen, but the welcome was not an altogether happy one. He died in 1979, never having recaptured the enormous reputation of his early

years. Little remains of his choreographic canon. Out of 50 works, only four survive: now *The Green Table* carries the banner for Jooss's unique talent. What we see is a highly theatrical dance-maker and social commentator for whom no movement existed without content. "My father's main emphasis was humanitarian and philosophical," Markard says. "He continued to make strong comments on the state of the world. One work dealt with the aftermath of war. He was very coloured by his time."

"He tried to translate these motifs into the language of dance. He used to say, 'if I had the use of words I would say it with words but my language is movement.'"

● *The Green Table* opens tonight at the Birmingham Hippodrome 1021-622 74861.7.30pm

## Regrets?

## Too few to mention

That old Sinatra magic was still wowning them in New York last week

Certain events lie beyond the pale of criticism. Many would say that a concert in 1992 by Frank Sinatra is one of them. Fans of the most successful popular singer this century are enormously gratified simply by the fact that, at the age of 76, he is still able to walk on, stand on a stage, and make his way through an hour-long set of standards.

To the faithful, it is of no concern that the fabric of his voice is irreparably frayed — and indeed only intermittently recognisable as that of the singer in his prime — or that he does not always seem to be in the same key as the orchestra.

Nor do they give a damn when he forgets his words, even to songs he made famous. Or when he makes the same leaden "ad lib" three times in an evening. They have come to bask in the numinous presence of the Great Man. And like a papal blessing, a Sinatra concert defies all laws of nature: he mesmerises audiences still.

Thus it is hardly news to relate that Sinatra's engagement at Radio City Music Hall (an 11-day season, ending last night) — with a polished and witty Las Vegas-style opening act by Shirley Maclaine — was a smashing success, and once again the hottest ticket in town. The spectacle was put together just as it ought to have been: nothing has changed in this act for at least 15 years. As Sinatra remarked at the outset: "We're only going to do the old songs tonight. No one is writing songs now, and if they were, they would be lousy."

The man himself is in an excellent state of physical preservation, with a remarkably healthier head of hair than that of his music director and conductor, Frank Sinatra Jr. The orchestra played all the old Nelson Riddle arrangements with flawless finesse.

Admittedly, there were long stretches that were, for a non-believer, embarrassing. Such periods seemed rather like seeing a garrulous great-uncle carrying on at the dinner table: not nearly as clever as he fancies himself to be. But there were also moments when the glory that was glinted through. When he perched on a stool — glass of whisky in one hand, cigarette in the other — to sing "Guess I'll hang my tears out to dry", there could not have been a person in the hall who did not feel moved.

JAMIE JAMES

## New production axed at impecunious Garden?

THE Royal Opera is doing more than selling the family silver — in the form of the autograph score of Donizetti's unknown, unperformed *Elisabeth* — to help pay off its £3 million-plus deficit. The sudden, unexpected availability of various star singers on the international market next May suggests that Covent Garden's new production of Halévy's *La Juive* has been axed. As it was to have been produced by John Dew, the director responsible for last season's disastrous *Les Huguenots*, there will doubtless be those sour-minded enough to feel that there are artistic as well as financial advantages to be gained from the decision.

## Late Beethoven

AT THE age of 78, the Italian conductor Carlo Maria Giulini is recording a cycle of all the Beethoven symphonies for the first time. The first disc, of symphonies 1 and 7 with the La Scala Philharmonic, will be released in Britain this autumn. Giulini's cycle is a considerable prize for Sony Classical, as the Japanese company struggles to wrest the top classical performers away from his chief rival, Deutsche Grammophon. The cut-throat competition among the various labels is all the more vicious because Sony Classical's boss, Günther Breest, formerly wooed the same artists for DG.

● **WOULD-BE** Redgrave and Scofield of the 21st century have until the end of next week to enter the 1993 Lloyds Bank Theatre Challenge: the showcase event at the National Theatre for the top dozen or so of Britain's youth theatre groups. Proof that the event can be a milestone on the path to glory is demonstrated by the experience of Unit 108, a youth group from Barnstable, Devon. In January the group will travel to Lithuania to meet dramatic

## ARTS BRIEFING

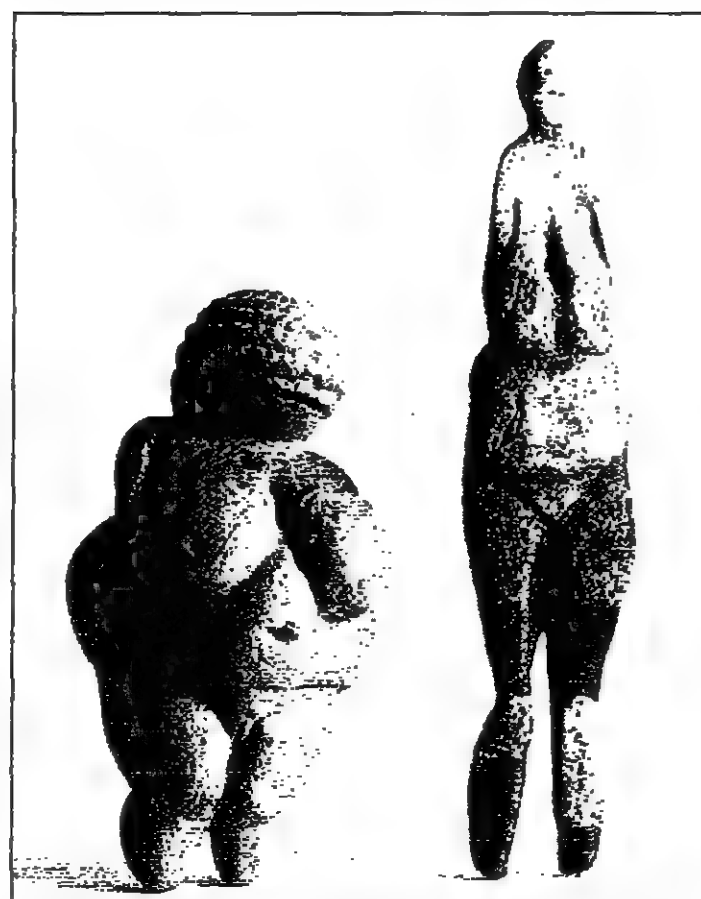
counterparts on an exchange arranged by the National Theatre. But one of the group's leading lights, Gregor Henderson-Begg, may not be able to make it. He is now working with Robin Williams in Hollywood and taking calls from the casting director of Julia Roberts's new film. Budding thespians should need no further incentive to get those entries in.

## Eastern promise

EAST Anglian theatre is enjoying a boom that defies all conventional economic wisdom. This Friday the Wolsey Theatre in Ipswich (self-proclaimed "best attended repertory theatre in England") opens a new studio theatre in a converted 19th century chapel. The conversion cost £430,000, met partly by £150,000 of Arts Council incentive funding, and took three years.

Then next month Norwich's Theatre Royal reopens after its £3.75 million refurbishment, having been closed since March 1990. A trust set up under the leadership of the formidable Sir James Clemenson, former president of the CBI, succeeded in raising the money in under a year, aided by grants of £1.6 million from local authorities. The Royal Shakespeare Company's *Comedy of Errors* reopens the theatre on November 24.

● **AS TODAY'S** Europeans struggle to unite, an exhibition to warm the heart of Jacques Delors himself opens on Friday at the National History Museum. "First Europeans — A Life without Frontiers" looks at yesterday's men: in fact it surveys the last million years of European culture. Pre-Maastricht, in other words,



Replica figurines from the "First Europeans" 30,000 years ago

The exhibition's Euro credentials are impeccable. It has been partly funded by the Museo Nacional de Ciencias Naturales in Madrid, by the European Arts Festival and by the Commission of European Communities. And when it finishes in London it will tour the continent for five years.

Primarily a celebration of Ice Age art, carvings, sculpture and decorative objects, it also includes the reconstruction of a triple Neanderthal burial in Czechoslovakia and a spectacular triple-screen video presentation exploring the fate of Europe's "famous Neanderthals". There are cave-painting workshops and flint-knapping demonstrations on offer too. Given the current state of the British economy, cave-painting

workshops probably qualify as job-creation schemes.

## Goodbye to Almanac

WHEN the Wigmore Hall reopens next month, one of its star turns will have had a facelift too. After 15 years of existence, the Songmakers' Almanac — the pianist Graham Johnson's pioneering group of singers with accompanist as animator — will be reborn under a new title: International Songmakers.

Having always supported the ranks of the English singer against the steady invasion of young Germans such as Olaf Baer and Wolfgang Holzmair, the market-conscious Johnson is now entering the European exchange mecha-

nism. Each programme he devises from now on will feature one star foreigner and two up-and-coming Brits, and Johnson himself will cease to function as storyteller.

So in future the Songmakers will focus more on the singer than the song. But at least Johnson's cultured programming is not being jettisoned, as is demonstrated by a programme of Schubert and Keats next February to mark the poet's anniversary.

● **THEATRE** administrators in eastern Europe no longer cushioned by state patronage, are despairing of a future with insufficient subsidy and crumbling theatres to maintain. Who do they consult for advice based on bitter experience of such matters? Why, the British, of course: the world experts in artistic brinkmanship.

So in Budapest at present, three of Britain's top arts administrators — Anthony Field, formerly head of Arts Council finances; Richard Polford, of the South Bank Centre; and John Causebrook of Stoll Moss — are conducting a week of lectures and workshops. The British Council has arranged the trip, with the City of Budapest. "The Eastern European administrators have absolutely no idea about how they might use the resources they do have, by capitalising on their wonderful buildings," says Field.

## Last chance...

NICHOLAS HYTNER's new production of *The Force of Destiny* for English National Opera may have a slightly glitzy edge that does not quite chime with Verdi's blackest, most implacably pessimistic opera. But it is a beautifully organised, smooth-running show, spectacularly designed by Richard Hudson. And it is cast from ENO strength: Josephine Barstow as the tormented heroine (always one of her best roles), the trumpet-toned Edmond Barham sounding more Italianate than ever as the hero, and Jonathan Summers memorably manic as the villain. The last performance (Coliseum, 071-836 3161, Thursday) is conducted by Mark Shanahan.

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## LONDON

**THE SWAGGER PORTRAIT:** There has never been a portrait of a British painter of portraits ready to apply something obviously impressive to their portraits. Van Dyck was the founding father of such portraiture, his followers in the tradition range from Lely and Kneller to Sargent and Augustus John. These pictures are full of pride in position and possession. The Gallery, 19th St, SW1 0JZ, 13.30-5pm, Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm Sun, 2-6pm, until Jan 10, 1993.

**DAVE BRUBECK:** Often called a maverick, Dave Brubeck is known for his clever time signatures, but he is also a significant composer-leader in modern jazz. Although he has contributed very few jazz standards, he has created a remarkable body of jazz and popular music, including orchestral pieces, concertos and ballet scores. The four pieces will play with a quartet. Festival Hall, South Bank, SE1 0JZ, 8.30-10.30pm, 8pm.

**BLUE ANGELS:** Marsha Raven sang the story of the blues, drawing on songs from Billie Holiday to Tina Turner. Bloomsbury Theatre, Gordon Street, WC1 0JZ, 8.30-10.30pm, 8pm, Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, Sun and 8.30pm.

**FORCED ENTERTAINMENT:** Theatre co-operative. Continuing the group's fascination with the 'urban experience', the Bardens New Stages Award-winners present *Entertainment*, a physical-theatre piece that examines the role of fiction and fantasy in our lives. RCA, The Mall, SW1 0JZ, 8.30-10.30pm.

**DEATH AND THE MAIDEN:** David's story of a young woman's psychological drama on the long for revenge. Penelope Dwyer, David Webb and Hugh Ross make up the cast. Duke of York's, St Martin's Lane, WC2 0JZ, 8.30-10.30pm, Mon-Sat, 8pm, Sun, 3pm, Sat, 4pm, 12.30pm.

**THE DYBBUK:** Isaac Disraeli's thriller concerning a Hasidic community where the supernatural comes in on all sides. The story is set in the past, but the play is set in the present. The P.B. Baruch, St. Paul's, EC4 0JZ, 8.30-10.30pm, 8pm, Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, Sun and 8.30pm.

**GRAND HOTEL:** Musical. A story of a hotel in the twenties. The Grand Hotel, 19th St, SW1 0JZ, 8.30-10.30pm, 8pm, Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, Sun and 8.30pm.

**AN INSPECTOR CALLS:** Stephen Daldry's award-winning production of Agatha Christie's detective novel. The P.B. Baruch, St. Paul's, EC4 0JZ, 8.30-10.30pm, 8pm, Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, Sun and 8.30pm.

**IT RUNS IN THE FAMILY:** Lark in the hospital common room, major outburst, doctors running and George Corney face with lots of laughs. Playhouse, Northumberland Avenue, WC2 0JZ, 8.30-10.30pm, 8pm, Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, Sun and 8.30pm.

**JUNE MOON:** Nave songwriting. A story of a young woman's psychological drama on the long for revenge. Penelope Dwyer, David Webb and Hugh Ross make up the cast. Duke of York's, St Martin's Lane, WC2 0JZ, 8.30-10.30pm, Mon-Sat, 8pm, Sun, 3pm, Sat, 4pm, 12.30pm.

**MURDER BY MISADVENTURE:** Gerald Langer and William Garsa play comic writers who tell out and put their

## NEW RELEASES

**STRICTLY BALLROOM (PG):** One of the most popular of the Australian Ballroom Dancing Federation. Released by director Baz Luhrmann. With Paul Macdonald, Tara Morice. UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

**THUNDERBOLT (18):** FBI Agent Val Kilmer rescues an Indian village in South Dakota. Released by director Michael Apted. With Tom Sheppard, Graham Greene. MGM Fulham Road (071-370 2638).

**WUTHERING HEIGHTS (18):** Orchestral. A story of a young woman's psychological drama on the long for revenge. Penelope Dwyer, David Webb and Hugh Ross make up the cast. Duke of York's, St Martin's Lane, WC2 0JZ, 8.30-10.30pm, Mon-Sat, 8pm, Sun, 3pm, Sat, 4pm, 12.30pm.

**LES AMANTS DU PONT NEUF (18):** Les Amants du Pont Neuf is a story of a young woman's psychological drama on the long for revenge. Penelope Dwyer, David Webb and Hugh Ross make up the cast. Duke of York's, St Martin's Lane, WC2 0JZ, 8.30-10.30pm, Mon-Sat, 8pm, Sun, 3pm, Sat, 4pm, 12.30pm.

**BEAUTY AND THE BEAST (18):** Surprisingly Disney cartoon fairy-tale.

## TODAY'S EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Karl Knight

tonight, 8pm, until October 26.

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**Myra's in Thunderbirds F.A.B.:** The play inspired by Gerry Anderson's TV television series of the Sixties. The production, which celebrates the 25th anniversary of its original cast, is touring the country. Everyman Theatre, Regent Street (021-252 5757), 7.45pm, 7.30pm and 8pm, Sat, 2pm and 8pm.

**NORWICH:** East Angles has always had the reputation of being so nice to its visitors that it has become a bit of a cliché. The Norwich Theatre, Regent Street (01603 625257), 7.45pm, 7.30pm and 8pm, Sat, 2pm and 8pm.

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THEATRE: a resolutely individual director interviewed; and fringe theatre reviewed

# On my terms or not at all

When he came to a sudden and unhappy parting of the ways last year with his then employer, the board of Chichester Festival Theatre, Michael Rudman decided on one thing. "I would work only for people who I was quite sure really wanted me. Me, and not someone or something else."

That explains why he has taken what some conventionally-minded people, with traditional ideas of the proper careers for internationally respected directors, might consider a surprising step. He has returned to his theatrical beginnings, which were regional rep in the industrial Midlands. Specifically, he has taken artistic control of Sheffield's Crucible Theatre and the house next door, the Yvonne Aron Theatre.

But that same determination also explains why he has directed James Saunders's *Making It Better*, the play that reopens London's renowned, redecorated Criterion on Wednesday.

Rudman's dismissal from Chichester still has to be publicly justified by that theatre's board. Two of the productions he presented in his first season in 1990, Graham Greene's *The Power and the Glory* and a musical version of Ionesco's *Rhinoceros*, fared poorly at an already recession-hit box office. There was evidently some alarm at board level about the cost of *Till Tomorrow*, the musical he had scheduled for his second summer in Sussex. But it still seems odd that he was thrown out only just before the opening of what would otherwise have been a solid-sounding, mainstream Chichester season: *The Three Musketeers*, *Arsenic and Old Lace* and *Alec McCowen in a Pinero farce*.

When Rudman was director of Hampstead Theatre in the Seventies, he dramatised Michael Frayn's *Tomorrow* in tribute to his American origins, his laid-back drawl and his wry, affable manner. But here is no doubt that Chichester's rejection — "there was conflict on to board, I got caught in all the mess and the plays they wanted" — left him feeling wounded and upset. He spent the rest of 1991

**Michael Rudman is going back to his roots in regional rep. He tells Benedict Nightingale why**

reading, seeing a lot of his three children, considering his future, and losing weight by jogging and playing golf.

As they say in California, I was banned, fit and ready for something to come up," he says, and what came up was a message that made him feel wanted. He came home one November night to find that the producer Michael Codron had left an SOS on his telephone answering machine. The director who had been scheduled to open *Making It*

**I don't think there are three or four people in Britain with a better job'**

Better at Hampstead in February had dropped out. Would Rudman take over? He read the play twice, first to see if he liked it, next to check he could find ways of staging it. "Yes, oh, yes" was the message he left on Codron's own machine.

*Making It Better* mainly concerns a World Service producer, played by Jane Asher, whose husband emerges from the sexual closet, leaving her to find consolation in an incongruous brace of Czechoslovakians. The critics liked its intelligence, humour and passion. Rudman admired, and admires it, because "it was about psychological truth and political truth, about the world we live in and people's personal lives, and it was funny, sexy and very moving at the end."

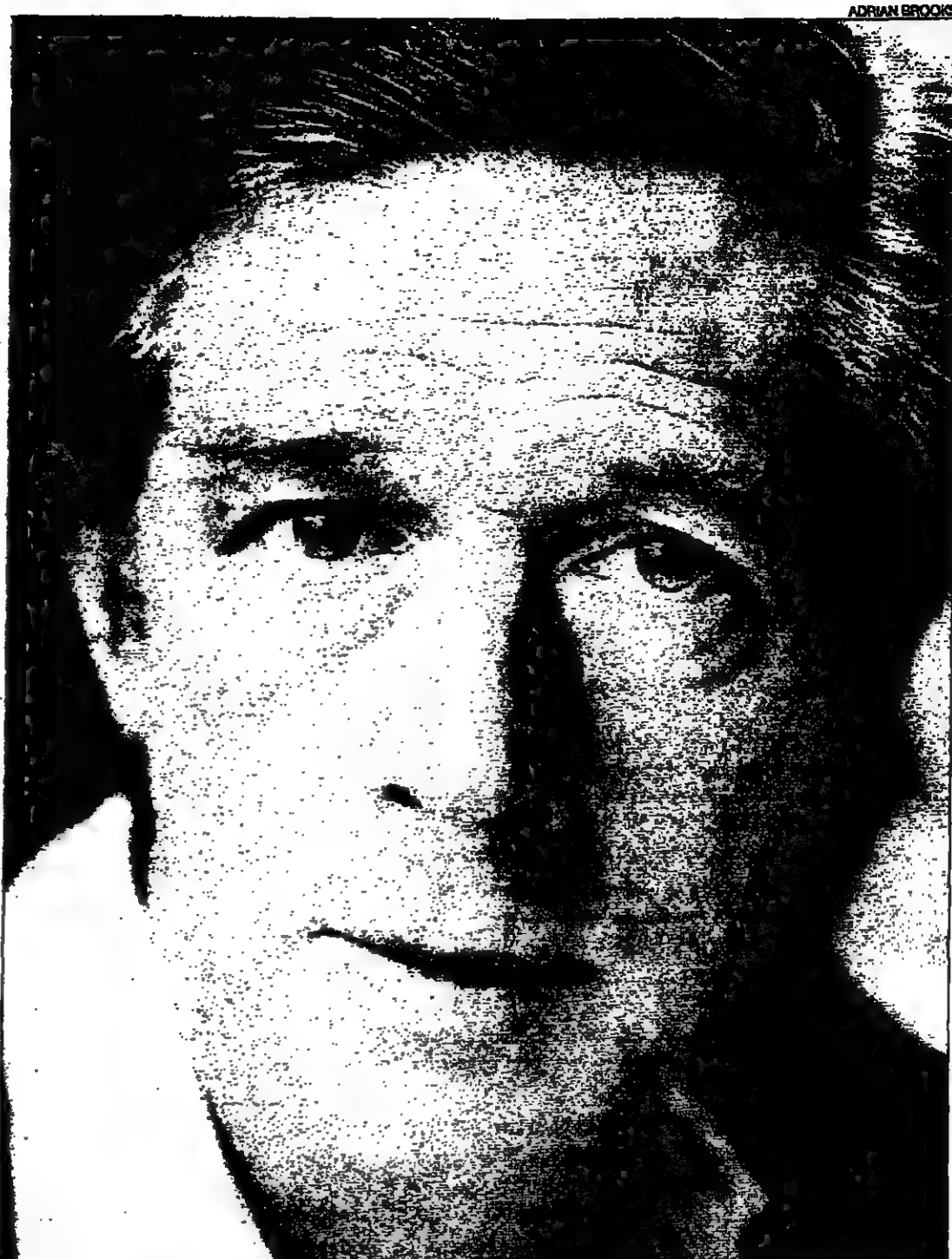
The production had a successful run at Hampstead, and then went into limbo before being re-rehearsed

for its West End transfer. The delay seems to worry Rudman not at all. "When you first stage a play you spend a lot of time building the actors' confidence. But when you come back to it, they know what works, so you can begin by asking a lovely question: how can it be made to work better? After all, if the worst comes to the worst, they can do it just as they did it before."

Rudman came from his native Texas to read English at Oxford in 1961, was president of OUDS, went to Nottingham Playhouse as assistant director, and ran the Traverse in Edinburgh, Hampstead Theatre and, from 1979 to 1982, the Lyric. His brilliant production of *Death of a Salesman* at the National, later restaged at Broadway with Dustin Hoffman, launched the current craze for Arthur Miller. He did much to establish the reputations of Michael Frayn, C.P. Taylor, Stephen Pollakoff, Pam Gems and a dozen others.

"I'm a bit of an old tart," he says in self-deprecating acknowledgement of tastes that seem idiosyncratic yet catholic. "The play I like best would have a good story, excellent language verging on poetry, be about the world without as well as the world within, would have humour though not necessarily be a comedy, and would relate to something in my own life." That has embraced Peter Handke and Neil Simon, David Storey's *Changing Room* on Broadway and a Caribbean *Measure for Measure* at the National, as well as *Making It Better* and the play he has just opened in Sheffield, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Moving north seems not to worry him, perhaps partly because he also has the freedom to direct the odd play in London. "It's only 150 miles from Marble Arch, and anyway what's so great about Marble Arch?" he says. "I don't think there are three or four people in the country with a better job." But he is well aware that the job is a tricky one, too. The Crucible has been losing audiences and money for a time, thanks largely to the competition offered by the recently opened Lyceum with its starry touring shows. Some productions are said to have played to less than 20 per cent of capacity.



Michael Rudman: he describes himself as "a bit of an old tart", because of his catholic taste in plays

Rudman has had a warm welcome up there. Budgets have been rejigged to allow him to bring in more actors and pay them better. Hence some "celebratory Shakespeare" to show the city we're back in business: a *Midsummer Night's Dream* 25 per cent above budget, despite the competition of Peter Hall's touring production of Wilde's *Ideal Husband* at the Lyceum.

Next comes Jack Shepherd as Mr Rochester in Willis Hall's new adaptation of *Jane Eyre*, followed by *Peter Pan*, a revival of Frayn's *Donkey's Years* and maybe the musical that never opened in Chichester, *Till Tomorrow*. Meanwhile, Rudman plans to re-open the Crucible's studio theatre with some new plays and will himself direct a production of Wycherley's *Country Wife* at the Lyceum. Will all this fulfil his hopes, which are to cling onto the serious playgoer and dive to the gin-and-tonic set that there is

more than one theatre in Sheffield? "My artistic policy is me," he says. "Me and the city of Sheffield and where our tastes meet. There are things I like which they wouldn't like and I won't do, and things they might like but I don't like and so couldn't do well. But there is an awful lot we should both enjoy."

● *Making It Better* previews tonight and tomorrow and opens Wednesday at the Criterion, Piccadilly Circus, London W1 (071-639 4488)

● *Making It Better* previews tonight and tomorrow and opens Wednesday at the Criterion, Piccadilly Circus, London W1 (071-639 4488)

## DANCE

### Time travel tales

Les Arènes du temps  
Derngate

After the plays and the films comes the ballet about Columbus. There has to be something apologetic about the muted celebrations these days, but it is impossible to ignore the event. In other media the balance may be easier to achieve, but for Jean-Paul Comelin it posed a problem.

His solution, brought by his Ballet du Nord from Roubaix (in northern France) to the Derngate, Northampton last week, is a Janus-like touch, looking both forward and back. Scenically, this leads to a big structure (design by Gérard Leduc) dominating the back of the stage. At its centre is a large globe on which can be projected symbolic patterns: maps, waves, statues, people. To our left, looking at it, stand ruined stone walls with gaping doors and windows; to our right, a structure of metal platforms and ladders.

Ancient and modern are similarly juxtaposed in the costumes by David Heuvel. A crowd of spectators from our time stand watching Queen Isabella's court, but what they see is less the story of Columbus than a set of symbols, the man (Gilles Reichert) and his conscience (Pascal Minam Bories), grappling with a guardian angel and a tempter (both male), destiny and a sphinx (both female).

A play not to have shown something of the adventure of actually crossing the Atlantic. Instead, we go straight to the rape of the native Americans. Then comes a long sequence of dances for which the various characters return in simple white clothes, watched now by people from the past. At least this allows the hitherto short-winded dance idiom to expand somewhat, although remaining rather generalised in its hand-touching, back-bending emotionalism.

Texts taken from Paul Claudel, in English for this tour, help explain the otherwise confusing first half. The accompaniment is a collection of American music running from Copland (I think I recognised the Fanfare for the Common Man) to Schoenberg ("Transfigured Night") via George Crumb, Charles Ives and Carlos Nakai.

The last of the projections on the globe draws a comparison for our own time by showing a man in space-travelling gear. This seems to suggest a more affirmative attitude — but will people in another 500 years think so?

B. N. JOHN PERCIVAL

FRINGE THEATRE: Benedict Nightingale on a bleak vision of women in "special hospitals"; Jeremy Kingston on a Feydeau frolic



Natasha Alexander and Susan Gifford: they play multiple roles in *Head-rot Holiday*

## Are they all hopeless cases?

SARAH Daniels' latest play makes allegations about the treatment of women incarcerated in "special hospitals" such as Broadmoor and Rampton which, if true, should have us all writing to our MPs and demanding public enquiries. The indictment, if I am correctly reading the evidence of her three case-studies, goes like this.

Women are far more likely to be diagnosed as psychopaths than men. Old-fashioned ideas about "ladylike" behaviour mean that a young woman can end on the locked ward for a punch-up that might get her brother three months in a traditional slammer. Once there, she is likely to stay for years after, getting little help from the psychiatrists and even less from nursing staff who, whatever their pretensions, take a punitive view of mental illness. Her life will consist of watching television, swallowing pills, sewing soft toys and the odd stint of solitary. Meanwhile, misdeeds real and imaginary will be recorded in a dossier which she is not

**Head-rot Holiday**  
BAC, Battersea

allowed to read, but which will be presented to the tribunal when she seeks release.

The wonder is that anybody gets either better or out, and none of Daniels' three prisoner-patients looks like doing so. Ruth was sexually abused by her father, stabbed the step-mother who refused to acknowledge what was happening and now talks in obsessive rhyming couplets of her own wickedness. Dee played the tomboy a bit too aggressively in her wider youth, and is trying and failing to acquire the "femininity" the nurses want. Only Claudia, who took a poison-peeler to the social worker she felt was keeping her from her children, seems not to be in mental decline; and even she has her precarious moments.

Daniels never quite answers the suspicion, encouraged by her earlier plays, that she has a hard-line feminist agenda to pursue. Why does the ward

sister betray her own enlightened views by surreptitiously bawling the patient? Why, because she has a violent husband, of course. For Daniels, women are invariably victims, without the moral autonomy she pays men the inadvertent compliment of suggesting they possess. And yet much of her writing is balanced as well as vivid. Potential villains — that social worker, that stepmother — are allowed to put their cases; and one of the most sympathetic characters is a nurse whose sense of right and wrong is as sturdy as her horizons are narrow and her imagination dim.

Natasha Alexander, Yonic Blackwood and Susan Gifford — members of Clean Break, a company dedicated to prison reform — play all the parts and (Alexander especially) play them pretty well. Paulette Randall's production, though it comes in somewhat choppy scenes, and unwisely retains a surreal encounter between Dee and an angel, holds the attention. But not all the worries it leaves are the intended ones. Yes, this is a corner of

British life that needs inspecting. But how representative are these cases? Is treatment always so poor? Are there not women against whom the public must be protected? What should we do with and for them?

B. N.

JOHN PERCIVAL

## FOUR EXCLUSIVE OFFERS

This week members of *The Times Theatre Club* can take advantage of three exclusive offers. In addition, we have negotiated a special package at the Alhambra Theatre in Bradford for all readers (not just club members).

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choreographed by Jiri Kylián, with music by Janáček. The *Times* has arranged an exclusive package for the company's visit — the only one in Britain this year.

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as meeting members of the cast. The cost of this special members' evening is £31, which includes attendance at the presentation, wine and canapés and a top-price ticket for the show.

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● Box office Telephone 061 833 9833

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### Fleet-footed farce

**Pig in a Poke**  
Oxford Playhouse

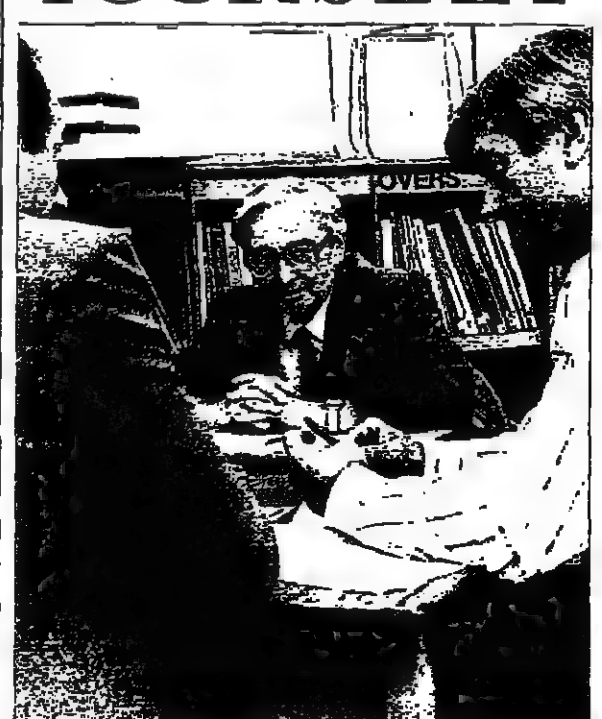
Oakleigh. They live in salubrious Cumberwell. By one of the coincidences beloved of Feydeau himself, I found myself sitting in front of a man whose interval conversation suggested familiarity with the original. I asked if he had read it in French and he agreed that he had done so before introducing himself as McLeish, which is how I can reveal that 80 per cent of the play is Feydeau and the remainder his own, including the substitution of a visitor from Argentina in place of provincial Toulouse. His contribution included the inspired name of the River Plate Fine Wines and Black Pudding Company. Pennyfeather, the visitor,

(Robin Kermode looking, if he will forgive me, like a young Wogan), is mistaken for a world-famous tenor. Wembley tries to pull a fast one over Covent Garden: Pennyfeather's practised charm delights the ladies and some intricate misunderstandings after a slow start escalate ever faster.

No need to explain the plot any further. Mark Dornford-May's production for Oxford Stage Company, setting off on a national tour this week, skips along very pleasantly. The moments of soliloquy against frozen action work well and the playing between Tamsin Oliver, a young composer, and Grant Parsons' engaging young stutterer is especially good: rushing into each other's arms on realising that they are not in love, Paul Greenwood's Wembley is not quite right, though it is hard to put a finger on what goes wrong: too brash, too belligerent, too barking? All three qualities are required but the balance needs adjustment. Linda Spurrier's Ernestine enlivens every scene, flitting or furious.

J. K.

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An entrepreneur and an academic have big plans for America's schools. Lucy Hodges reports

# Making brass from brains

The late emergence of education as an issue in the American presidential election has stimulated new interest in the year's most unlikely academic partnership.

When Benno Schmidt gave up the presidency of Yale University to head a project dreamt up by a maverick businessman from Knoxville, Tennessee, the education world was flabbergasted. It was the equivalent of the vice-chancellor of Oxford throwing in his lot with an educational experiment thought up by a minor entrepreneur from Wolverhampton.

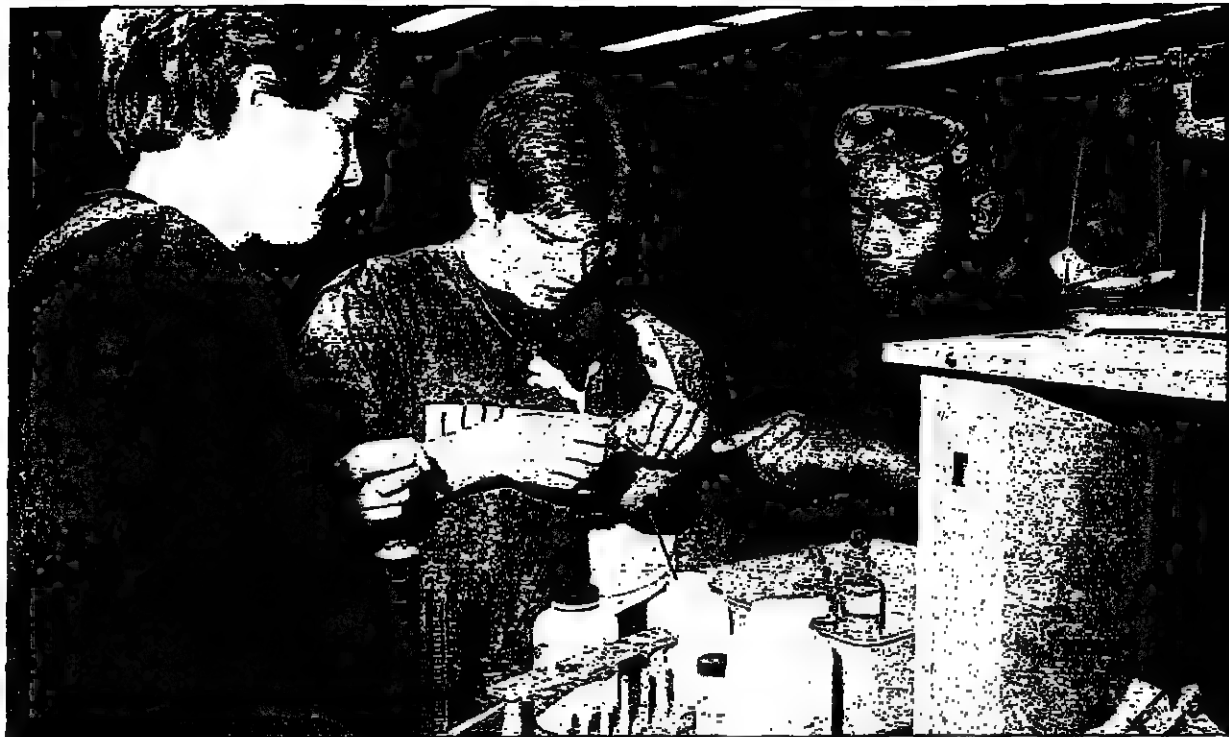
Christopher Whittle, the flamboyant businessman, could hardly have caught a bigger educational fish. The announcement has brought him valuable prestige and publicity for his dream of setting up a network of private schools in America.

With the Bush and Clinton camps locked in battle over education vouchers and the issue of parental choice, the project is beginning to be seen as an idea whose time has come.

At a press briefing in Washington last month, Mr Whittle declared: "There is a strong belief that a dramatic breakthrough can be found. I have brought together a highly committed group of people and given them the research tools and freedom to seek that breakthrough. It has never been done on this scale and with this continuity."

Mr Schmidt is now bent over the drawing board. It is his job to establish model schools which the publicly funded schools can emulate, to try to pull America out of its educational doldrums. The big questions are whether he will succeed in producing change which sticks on any scale, and whether he can do so at the same cost as the publicly funded system — and make a profit for his Tennessee paymaster.

It is a tall order. American public schools are criticised for low standards and Mr Schmidt is



New formula: with American education in trouble, the time for a network of private schools may have arrived

fond of explaining that one third of 17-year-olds cannot find France on a map of the world and that only one in ten high school leavers can write a reasonably coherent paragraph or handle pre-college mathematics. One in five students drops out of high school.

Mr Whittle has already shown a flair for making money out of education. His company, founded 21 years ago to provide information to freshmen arriving on American campuses, has branched out into magazines, books and television.

Critics doubt, however, whether establishing a system of private schools is the answer to the educational problems. The notion of making a profit worries them and they wonder whether a flourishing private system, on the British model, might not make matters worse for the public sector, creaming off the best teachers and pupils. "We are suspicious that he will siphon off certain kinds of students in order to make sure that his schools are successful,"

said Lyle Hamilton, media relations manager for the National Education Association, the biggest teachers' union in the United States. "We don't believe that schools open to the public should operate on a for-profit basis because they are liable to do things, such as cutting corners, to make a dollar."

Nevertheless, Mr Whittle is

**Running at a profit is the only way we can imagine financing a new school system**

receiving some sneaking admiration from unexpected quarters, particularly from those who virtually despair of reforming the education system. "Three cheers for Chris Whittle," declared Theodore H. Sizer, education professor at the Ivy League Brown University in Rhode Island. "Those labouring in the public sector can use the competition that

he provides and make bolder claims on the public purse."

Professor Sizer is referring to the \$60 million (£36 million) raised for the planning phase from the funding partners Time Warner, Philips Electronics and the British company Associated Newspapers. Once a blueprint for a new American school has been created, the aim is to raise as much as \$2.5 billion (£1.4 billion) for software, hardware and for building the first school. The gleaming new creation is to open in 1996.

Called the Edison Project after the inventor of the light bulb, it should be the first in a network of 1,100 private schools, charging about \$5,500 (£3,200) a year in fees, the same as the cost of educating a child in public (state) schools. About 20 per cent of the pupils will be on full scholarships, and selection will be by lottery rather than merit. "We want to make sure we have diversity," Mr Schmidt said. "The purpose of the project is to create innovation that all schools can adopt."

Like many university chiefs in America, Mr Schmidt is at home in the business culture and talks the language of a captain of industry. In fact, he is a minor entrepreneur in his own right. One of his distinctions at Yale was to raise millions of dollars for the college.

It will be a tough job to raise \$2.5 billion for this venture. And it will be even more difficult to make a profit, Mr Schmidt said, however. "It will be possible to provide a return to investors. Making the profit is the only way we can imagine being able to finance a whole new system of schools. The government is not going to do it. The only way to come up with finance is through private enterprise, through markets."

At the heart of the project is the notion that public schools are a hopeless case because they are mired in a bureaucracy.

Whittle's team is determined that their schools will break the mould. They will be open for longer than the present six to seven hours a day, 180 days a year. They will espouse new technology with a vengeance. Students will, for example, sit at an electronic desk and have laptop computers.

Parents will be much more involved than they are now — by being asked to help with educational tasks but also by being in the school through their home computers to find out what is happening and what their children are doing.

"We want to make our whole education child-centred rather than teacher-centred," Mr Schmidt said. "We want to try to tap into the children's curiosity, and to move away from one teacher with 25 children doing the same thing at the same time." Making money out of education seems to be catching on. A company based in Minneapolis, Minnesota, is running a public school under contract for profit and a similar experiment has just begun in Baltimore, Maryland.

## A striking sense of déjà vu

John Major found time in his Brighton speech to include a few words about education. He touched in strictly tabloid terms on the need to restore the virtues of old-fashioned primary schooling and the need to restore the training of teachers from the trendy theories. And with an eye on the forthcoming bill furthering the government's education reforms, he forecast "another colossal row with the educational establishment" when the government sends in the new "educational associations" to sort out failing schools.

The cocktail of jingoism and tub-thumping must have been painful for a man who gives the impression most of the time that he is pretty sensible. But they all do it —

leave their intellectual integrity at home when called on to get up the faithful. There was an exactly parallel passage in Margaret Thatcher's party conference speech in 1987, when the education reform bill was in the stocks — the same bogymen, the same appeal to well-tried stereotypes.

John Patten's white paper claimed that the bill would complete the Conservative educational reforms. Much of the 1988 Education Reform Act has already been overtaken by events. The new bill will rewrite the chapter on grant-maintained schools. It will greatly reduce the responsibilities of local education authorities and so require radical revision of the 1944 Education Act. What eventually goes to parliament will be a major bill consolidating the preceding acts as well as introducing new law. If this is to be the final throw — which nobody believes it will be — ministers have to get it right.

Mr Major is probably right to expect trouble when the government sends in the "educational associations". Why it was decided to call them "educational associations" — a more explanatory title might have made it easier to latch on to the idea of his squads dispatched from London to tackle schools which are coming apart at the seams. But the education-

establishment is not the only sector up in arms. It used to be a Conservative cliché that the man (or woman) in Whitehall knows what is better than the man (or woman) in the street.

True or false, it may still be what Wigan thinks. The nationalisation of the education system means the nationalisation of every little local difficulty. Ministers would soon get tired of this. It is obvious that some intermediate body between the government and the 25,000 schools will be needed. Otherwise there will be an irresistible tendency for the promised Funding Agency to fill the void by expanding its local and regional operations.

Many of the government's ideas about competition and the market in public education are also in vogue in right-wing circles in the United States. A Californian version of the grant-maintained school idea has just been passed into law. "Chartered schools" will be able to contract out of the mainstream public system subject to a range of safeguards. In Minnesota (see article left), a new form of chartered school is operating where groups of

teachers can form professional partnerships or co-operatives and contract with school governors to provide the teaching for an agreed sum.

Of more direct interest to John Patten, as he thinks about educational associations, is another American notion: that of bringing in a private corporation to take over the running of a school system which is "failing". It has an appealing simplicity which should suit radical Tories — just put the school out to tender, like roads or cleaning. It would indeed be a breakthrough for the market mechanism in education. If profit-making corporations could engineer more efficient schools within the unit costs which are now paid. And where would it be easier to wipe the slate clean and start again than in some benighted inner city school where the traditional system has broken down?

The author is former editor of The Times Educational Supplement

### VIEWPOINT



Stuart Maclure

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EDUCATION

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### POSTS

**STOCKPORT GRAMMAR SCHOOL HEAD**

Following the recent death of Mr R D H. Reesman, who served as Head for twenty-eight years, applications are now invited for the post of Head, for appointment on 1st September 1993 or earlier by arrangement.

Stockport Grammar School is the leading independent educational day school in the country and the Governors are seeking applicants of the very highest calibre for this prestigious position. The Junior School takes pupils at 4+ and acts as the feeder school to the Senior School, its pupils taking the entrance examination at 11+. There are currently 364 pupils in the school, 143 boys and 121 girls.

Further details of the position and information on Stockport Grammar School may be obtained from the Clerk to the Governors, Stockport Grammar School, Burton Road, Stockport, Cheshire SK2 7AF. The closing date for written applications, including full details and the names and addresses of three referees, is 15th November 1992. Letters should be marked PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL.

### BALLIOL COLLEGE OXFORD

The Mastership

The Fellows will soon be proceeding towards the election of a head of the College to succeed the present Master, Dr Sarah Blumberg, in October 1994. Any suitably qualified person, of either sex, who wishes to be considered or would like to suggest the name of someone else who might be considered for this position, is invited to write in confidence to the Senior Fellow, Mr J. M. Priest, at Balliol College, Oxford, OX1 5BU, preferably by 31 December 1992. The College's choice will not necessarily be limited to those whose names come forward in this way.

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At the end of this academic year, the I.T. department will move from its present location into spacious new accommodation in a large Business Centre which is currently under construction. Until September 1993, the successful applicant for this position will not be expected to teach or be involved in the running of the present department. The initial tasks facing the successful applicant will be to specify all the equipment needed for the new department, make sure that it is fully operational by the start of the academic year 1993/94 and appoint a network manager.

Further details and an application form from: The Headmaster's Secretary, Trent College, Long Eaton, Nottingham, NG10 4AD Tel: 0602-732737.

**WINCHESTER COLLEGE BURSAR**

Applications are invited for the post of Bursar and Secretary to the Governing Body on the retirement of Mr D.N.S. Vellacott, MA, FRCS. It is intended that the new appointment shall run from 1 October 1993, involving an overlap of three months with the present Bursar.

Duties include the management of the day to day finances of the College, the preparation of budgets and reports for the Governing Body, and overall responsibility for buildings, grounds and College estates.

The successful candidate is likely to have relevant accounting and administrative experience.

Further particulars should be obtained from The Warden, Winchester College, College Street, Winchester SO23 9NA.

The closing date for applications is 20 November 1992

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## Bubble lives on in the accounts

Five years on, not much of the crash of 1987 remains to be seen. The fear during those anxious days after Black Monday was that the financial world had taken leave of its senses. A destructive spirit was abroad that could wreck all assumptions about the future, or so it felt. The outcome has been far more mundane. The stock market stands today at levels almost identical to those of October 1987, having been appreciably higher earlier this year. Standard yield and earnings yardsticks of investment value are more conservative but broadly within the same well-defined limits. What seemed an ever-inflating bubble of stock market prices well and truly burst in 1987. But the investment world is remarkably unchanged.

There is far less of the bubble mentality in evidence these days. When asset prices spiralled upwards, risk-averse businessmen and traders of all kinds became prudent. The process reinforced and repeated itself each time falling standards led to a profitable deal. The chances who inhabited the worlds of property, retail and finance eventually met their fate and are largely no more. There is, however, one recurring reminder of those wild, pre-crash days, in the supposedly staid world of accounting.

One contributory factor to the gung-ho mood of the day was a set of accounting conventions that allowed huge flexibility for management to tailor accounts to produce the desired effect. These were the days of designer accounts. Such freedom was ruthlessly exploited by ambitious managements to flatter performance, to facilitate deals and to cover inconvenient problems in the business. Auditors were too often happy to co-operate in the intellectual excitement of finding techniques that delivered the result most eagerly sought by clients and secured the audit fees again next year. In most of the business world, the ethos of the late eighties has been tempered with restraint. Some accountants and their clients are still behaving as if Polly Peck, Colonnor and other celebrated disasters never happened.

There is, however, a new mood of reform abroad emanating from the likes of David Tweedie and the Accounting Standards Board. More to the point, this recognition that change is essential has permeated through to the highest levels in the City. The Governor of the Bank of England made his support for change icily clear when he addressed the annual dinner of the chartered accountants' institute earlier this year. Those present are unlikely to forget both the force of his reference to earlier shortcomings and the strained applause that greeted his remarks.

Professor Tweedie has a hard road to tread. Demystifying the work of any profession, making its conventions less capable of subjective use and encouraging transparency, is not always good for business. There is sometimes a vested interest in complexity. The ASB has won only lukewarm backing in the City and, in certain areas, has a fight on its hands with some industrialists, who see their freedom to present financial information selectively being whittled away.

There is a school of accountancy thinking that says "inflexibility" cannot always co-exist with the auditor's duty to offer his opinion of a true and fair view. There are industrialists who take up the theme and investment analysts who support them, claiming that standards soon to be introduced will produce great volatility in earnings per share. The ASB needs support. It is leading users of accounts towards a brave new world where abuse through concealment or obfuscation will be much more difficult. After the disasters of recent years, that is a prime requirement for any widespread change.

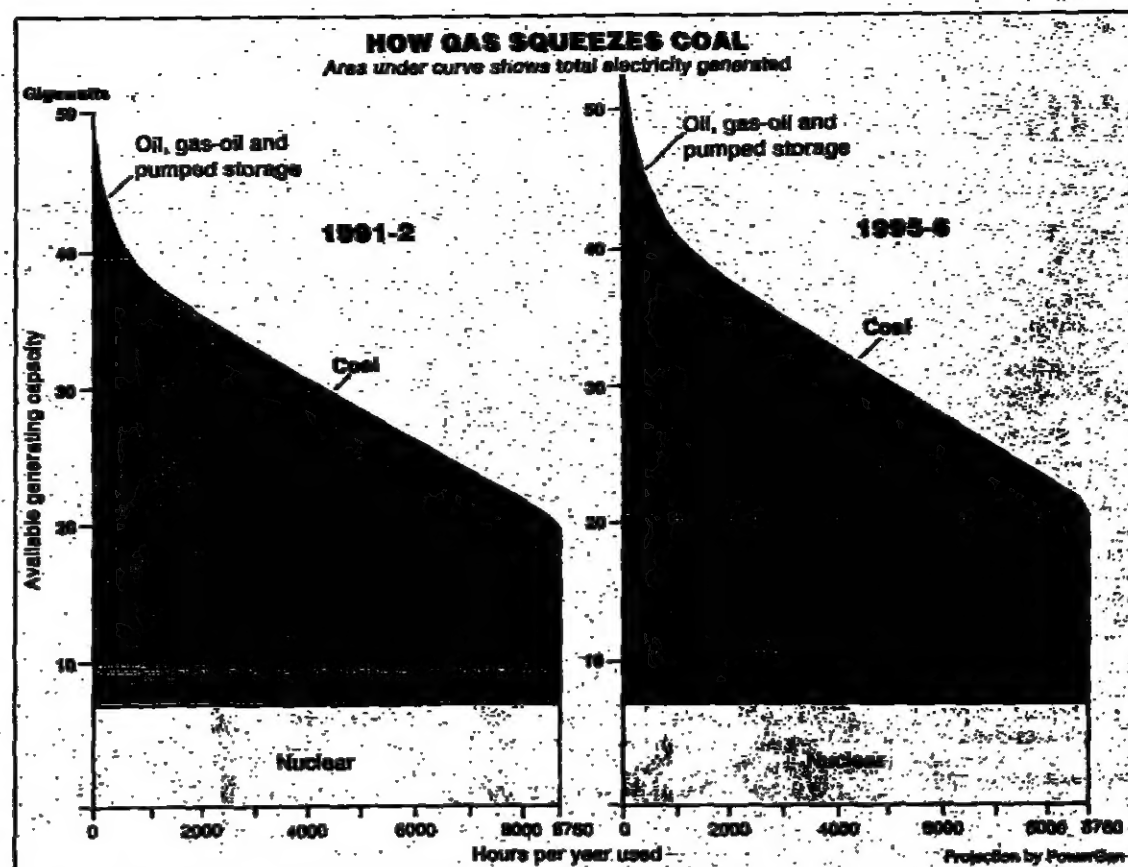
## The latest round of redundancies in the mining industry has little to do with real market forces, writes Colin Robinson

The proposition that the latest round of pit closures is inevitable is incorrect. We should not believe government claims that "market forces" dictate that another 31 pits should shut, in addition to the 120 already closed since the beginning of the 1984-5 strike. Superficially, it may appear that coal is now in a competitive market, whereas in the past, it was not.

From 1957 onwards, governments of both leading political parties protected British coal mining. By keeping out coal imports, taxing fuel oil, banning the use of natural gas in power stations and co-ordinating the electricity supply industry to buy more British-mined coal than it wanted, coal production was kept well above what would otherwise have been demanded from the nationalised coal industry. Indeed, British energy "policy" consisted principally of protecting coal and of promoting nuclear power, partly to neutralise the power of the miners, which was itself enhanced by coal protection. Support for the industry increased even under the Conservative governments of the early 1980s.

Such policies held up coal production artificially. They also concentrated sales on electricity generation. Coal production became essentially a means of fuelling power stations that took nearly 80 per cent of British Coal's output. Once electricity was privatised and the generators were given more freedom to buy fuels, a sharp decline in production was the likely result. What could have been a gradual decline in production was turned into a sharp drop by the policy of heavy protection and its eventual demise. The latest proposed round of closures may appear to be attributable to the emergence of market forces, but these are not competitive market forces.

Large numbers of pits are being closed not just because protection for British coal mining has been lifted but also because of the way the electricity supply industry was privatised. Since British coal mines had, through government policy, become principally fuel suppliers to electricity generation, the structure of privatised electricity supply was crucial for the coal industry. For that reason, in a paper, *Can Coal be Saved?*, published by the Institute of Economic Affairs in 1985, we argued that coal and electricity should be privatised



together, for example by selling pits and power stations in packages. In that way, an undesirable "accretion of power" to the electricity industry would be avoided. In the event, the government's privatisation scheme ensured that such an accretion occurred. Electricity was privatised with two dominant generators with considerable buying power relative to British Coal. Indeed, the privatised industry as a whole — though an improvement on its nationalised predecessor — has many undesirable features. Most of its constituent companies have substantial market leverage, relative to their customers and suppliers, and the old network of relationships in the industry was little disturbed by privatisation. The size of the coal industry is now being determined by the interactions between this kind of electricity industry and a state-owned monopoly coal industry, with government ministers playing an unknown but clearly influential role. That is a long way from a competitive market.

Whereas electricity was privatised in 1990, coal languished. Uncertainty hung over the industry since the government seemed unsure when, how and even whether to privatise. Few wanted to join the industry, some of its best people left and a redundancy culture emerged since it seemed preferable to have one's pit close and take compensation rather than work on into an uncertain future. For a while, coal protection continued in the form of initial

contracts under which National Power and PowerGen took from British Coal 65-70 million tonnes a year for three years until March 1993. Stocks piled up because the quantities were too large. But, in anticipation of more freedom to buy fuels, a "dash for gas" took place. National Power, PowerGen and "independent" generators (mainly with links to regional electricity companies) decided to build natural gas-fired combined cycle gas turbine (CCGT) stations that will have a total capacity of about 13 gigawatts by 1995 (capable of displacing more than 30 million tonnes a year of coal).

The leading generators began to import more coal and started work on new port facilities to allow imports to increase in the future. At the same time, existing nuclear power plants (still heavily subsidised) continued to take a large part of baseload power. Had the coal and electricity markets been competitive and had the electricity supply industry, with new-found ability to choose fuels, decided to run down coal purchases, there would have been little room for argument. If a substantial decline in coal then ensued, the proper response would have been generous treatment for those affected rather than an attempt to support production. But, in practice, because the new electricity market is monopolised and still contains large subsidies to nuclear power, there are doubts about what determines fuel buying decisions.

Investment in gas is the biggest issue. In the early stages of privatisation, gas plant seemed a good buy, with generation costs estimated as less than 2½ pence per therm versus 3½ p for new coal plant and just over

2½ p for existing coal plant with flue gas desulphurisation (FGD) added. Since gas prices have risen, the case is no longer clear-cut. Though the generating costs of new gas plant still seem significantly lower than the alternatives, it may be cheaper to operate existing coal plant and add FGD than to build new gas plant. Generation costs are, however, not matters of fact: they are estimates of the costs of operating plant into the distant future. Such investment decisions would be resolved in a genuine

competitive market as generators invested in new plant, such as gas, only if they expected their avoidable costs (capital and operating) to be less than the avoidable costs of old plant (operating plus any incremental capital) such as coal. Because the generators appear to have the power to manipulate prices or volumes, however, they are suspected of building gas-fired plant to pre-empt building by new entrants, at the same time closing coal plant to curb the growth of excess capacity.

It is easier to see what should have been done in the past than to suggest what the government might do now to extricate itself from this muddle of its own making. A way forward, however, is to cease piecemeal intervention in the energy market (which invariably stores up trouble for the future) and instead work towards the clear objective of creating privatised coal and electricity markets within each of which there is rivalry among

actual and potential suppliers. In electricity, that implies willingness to admit that electricity privatisation has gone wrong and to restructure generation to ensure there is genuine competition both in generation and supply. That is a precondition for any action to help British coal mining because investment in coal will be unattractive so long as electricity supply remains as it is. In coal, the proposed closure, or mothballing, of 31 pits should be halted. All we know about the 31 is that British Coal claims it cannot operate them profitably. But that is not to say that no one could do so.

Other organisations should be allowed to try; in effect, they would test whether in coal, as in industries previously privatised, costs could be significantly reduced. Private mining companies would most likely take a more forward-looking and more flexible view of costing and pricing than does British Coal. As far as one can tell, British Coal assesses pits for closure on the basis of its full costs, rather than distinguishing between costs already sunk and the avoidable costs of operating mines.

If it agrees to the closure of the 31, the government will in effect be allowing British Coal to dictate which pits should be sold to the private sector. That would be absurd for a government that says it wishes to privatise coal soon. No more pits should be closed until potential buyers have had a reasonable opportunity to assess their prospects and, if they wish, to put in bids for them.

Indeed, the government could turn its problem into an opportunity by announcing an offer for sale of the 31 as the first stage in a coal privatisation programme in which all existing pits (and open-cast operations) are sold as soon as British Coal's monopoly over "working and getting" coal has been abolished and coal reserves are no longer in its hands.

There are private mining companies in Britain that have for years managed to produce coal profitably despite being encumbered by severe restrictions and having to pay royalties to British Coal. International mining companies may be interested too and there is no reason why managers should not buy out some mines or why miners should not form groups to operate others.

Once the rush to close pits has been halted, the unnatural monopoly of British mining needs to be broken to give other forms of organisation a chance to flourish in the industry. The result of privatisation is uncertain, but it would provide the independent test that everyone is seeking, and it might be better than the certainties of life under British Coal and interfering governments. The author is professor of economics, University of Surrey and editorial director, Institute of Economic Affairs.

## Private mining companies would most likely take a more flexible view of costing and pricing

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Daze of whine and excuses

AN ADVERTISEMENT in the national press for an "additional" international lawyer for Eurotunnel does not, according to Sir Alistair Morton, the chief executive of Eurotunnel, signal preparations for another onslaught against TML, the contractors. Instead this particular lawyer, French or English, will work for Transco, Eurotunnel's new transportation division, at its new office which opens in Calais on November 2, and will, as you might guess, concentrate on transportation issues, such as directives from Brussels. Sir Alistair, known for his outspoken dislike of the fees lawyers charge — "Lawyers seem to do well even if no one else is" — continues, nevertheless, to reserve his most scathing remarks for the British government's inaction over the rail infrastructure to support the tunnel. The opening of Transco's Calais office coincides with the commencement of building work on a terminal at Calais for the *grande vitesse*, the high-speed French train, whereas in Britain, a similar rail terminal at Ashford, Kent, remains on the drawing board. It means, says Sir Alistair, that Folkestone residents, for instance, will have to travel to Waterloo to board the train, or cross the channel by ferry and then board the train in Calais. "It's ridiculous," he exclaims. "Nothing appears to be happening, even though 'there is nobody in the government who hasn't got a thick ear from me banging on about it'. And what response does he get? A funny sort of whining noise."



"It's to help people buy their rail tickets"

SPEAKING OF whining Brits, Sir Alistair Morton is reminded of an old joke. Question: How do you tell which plane is arriving from London when two aircraft touch down at Brussels airport at the same time? Answer: The plane from London is the one where the whining noise continues after the engines have been switched off.

**Sideways and up**  
THE integration of three investment management divisions — at Hill Samuel, TSB and Target — has resulted in nine redundancies. Of the nine given their cards at the end of last week, seven were clerical staff from back offices and two were assistant directors. At a more senior level Philip Beven, managing director of Hill Samuel Investment Management, has been transferred out of the department. Instead he will now become managing director of quantitative products. "Yes it is a promotion," explains

spokeswoman Sophie Hull, "because it's such an important part of our business. It's a key product in our range in an area where we are particularly strong."

### Bubbling over

BOB Gavron, millionaire head of St Ives's printing group, had a double reason to celebrate in the wake of the Booker Prize award. Regular readers of these pages will recall he was expecting Michael Ondaatje's *The English Patient*, one of two books in the Booker Prize shortlist printed by his company, to win. Its success is good news for St Ives, boosting the print run by 40,000. The other book on the shortlist also printed by St Ives? Barry Unsworth's *Sacred Hunger*, which in the event was joint winner with *The English Patient*. Gavron, who attended the Booker dinner, admits he informed every one at his table of his success. "I had a very warm feeling inside of me and then forgot all about it." He did not, he insists, open a bottle of his favourite Louis Roederer Cristal champagne to celebrate. "The dinner didn't finish until midnight and I'm now too old to open bottles of champagne after midnight," he says. "I drink champagne most days anyway... in fact I would like to be the sort of person who has a glass of it every day but in fact I never ever drink at lunch time."

### Green with money

IN JANUARY, Neil Bennett, *The Times* banking correspondent, wrote "high street banks are rewriting their lending policies for fear that proposed European Community legisla-

tion could leave them with an environment clean-up bill running into billions of pounds..." That legislation — in draft and open to amendment — is the EC directive on *Civil Liability for Waste*. The man in charge is Kad von Kempfle, while John Hobson, director of pollution control and waste at the environment department, is in a position to exert more influence over him on this subject than most. Both are among the speakers at a seminar chaired by Derek Wheatley, QC, attached to Watson, Farley & Williams, the City lawyer, on *Environmental Liability for Lenders* on November 25, at the Intercontinental Hotel, London. Wheatley says: "Most speakers are likely to be pressing for an amendment to the directive while there is still time." It promises to be a lively debate.

### Inflexible friend

BEING refused a credit card by an ordinary bank was the last thing Alastair Begg, a director of Kleinwort Benson and a County customer — where accounts are only offered to those earning in excess of £75,000 — expected when he applied for a NatWest Access card. This week Begg received a rejection letter telling him he had failed to score enough points to qualify for a card. As head of Kleinwort Benson Investment Management, Begg knows all too well that financial institutions cannot be too careful about whom they accept as credit customers. As an amused NatWest spokesman said, the bank had to have very rigorous standards. He then added, "But not that rigorous, after all they gave me one."

CAROL LEONARD

### Airlines need more competition

From Mr Richard Branson. Sir, I share to the full your concern (*Comment*, October 14) about saving jobs at Dan-Air. That is what we have been trying hard to do.

But our ability is reduced, and the difficulty of the task is increased, by the underlying problem which your concern makes you overlook: too much concentration and too little competitive opportunity in the British airline industry.

In recent figures, British Airways held 86 per cent of UK airlines' passenger capacity on international scheduled services. This is a slight improvement on the monopoly which brought British Airways to its present dominant position. But competition does not work well when one privileged competitor holds six times the share of all others put together, and when multiple barriers to competition are allowed to remain such as the so-called grandfather "rights" to airport take off and landing slots which ossify the industry.

To advocate worsening the imbalance even further, making competition even less workable, is to ignore the lessons of recent history. To lose one entrepreneurial airline may be regarded as unfortunate to lose Laker, British Caledonian, British Island Airways and Air Europe looks like more than mere carelessness.

There is literally a heavy

price to be paid for the lack of competition. The public interest includes customers of the airlines just as much as the people you mention, their shareholders, bankers and employees. On many routes passengers clearly get a poor deal, and airlines are denied opportunity, because there are still far too many obstacles to competition.

Your faith in the regulators is not easy to justify when British Airways is allowed to set fares which yield a return on costs which it freely admits are substantially higher than those of its British competitors, and when it is allowed to remain shielded from competition by denying those competitors opportunities to their detriment, as Dan-Air's difficulties show.

What the British airlines and their customers need is more open competition, not more concentration. Or do you doubt the superiority of the market economy? Incidentally, Virgin made no "triple forte intervention". We did not intervene, but were approached. And the announcement of discussions and their termination was made entirely at the behest of other parties.

Yours faithfully,  
RICHARD BRANSON  
Chairman,  
Virgin Group of Companies,  
120 Campden Hill Road, W8.

### In praise of the efficient taxman

From Christopher Batchelor. Sir, The article by Patricia Telford (*Observer* 2) about the incentives or penalties for Inland Revenue staff to improve the efficiency of the service will no doubt spell "doom and gloom" among taxpayers — fearing the worst.

I can say from recent personal experience, having been tardy in submitting my tax returns for some seven sum-

mers, that I have received nothing but prompt helpful advice, courtesy and a substantial repayment with interest. All this in the space of a month or so, in spite of two different tax officers being involved.

If this portends the service to come then there is no need fear the dreaded brown envelope on the mat.

Yours faithfully,  
C. BATCHELOR,  
144 Great Knollys Street,  
Reading, Berkshire.

### Sue present, not previous, tenant for rent

From Mr John B. Broomfield. Sir, Your correspondent, Rodney Hobson, writes (October 14) to describe the unfortunate plight of the Jacksons, who are facing a demand for rent in respect of property taken originally by them on lease and subsequently assigned.

There are two further points upon which he could have commented. First, clearly, all concerned ought to have nothing but sympathy for the plight of David and Adrienne Jackson. They took their lease during the boom times of 1985 and only traded from the premises for a matter of months.

We are not told, however, whether they did in fact sell their lease for a capital sum and net a substantial profit at the time, which might have helped them to expand into

larger premises. Second, it cannot be equitable to be asked to pay outstanding rent in respect of premises where a subsequent assignee is continuing to trade. Unless the story has been misreported, the landlords seem not to be doing their best even for their own shareholders.

A landlord who is owed rent is able to instruct a certificated bailiff to immediately distrain at the premises concerned and to take goods, for subsequent resale, up to the value of the debt.

For this it is not necessary to seek a prior court order.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN B. BROOMFIELD,  
John Broomfield & Company,  
110 New Bond Street,  
W1.

## BASE RATE CHANGE

Union Bank of Switzerland, London announces that with effect from the close of business on 16th October, 1992 its Base Rate was reduced from 9% PA to 8% PA.

Union Bank of Switzerland, PO Box 628, 100 Liverpool Street, London EC3M 2RH. Incorporated in Switzerland with limited liability.







CBI fears reversal this month

## High street sales rise slightly in September

By COLIN NARBROUGH  
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

RECESSION-battered retailers saw a glimmer of improvement in September, with sales slightly up on a year ago, but expect it to be snuffed out this month, according to the Confederation of British Industry.

The CBI's latest distributive trades survey, published today, shows September produced the first year-on-year rise in retail sales since May, despite the currency market storm that led to Britain pulling out of the exchange-rate mechanism, deepening gloom about the economy, and alarm about the government's confusion.

Other attempts to take the temperature of business are finding a dearth of confidence, which is unlikely to be reversed by the mixed reaction to Friday's one-point cut in interest rates. A report by the Chambers of Commerce, due on Thursday, promises to be particularly gloomy.

Overall, the CBI found a balance of 4 per cent of those it surveyed reported higher sales than those with lower sales.

### Welcome signs of better high street sales might not last, or be reflected in official figures.

This compares with a balance of 12 per cent reporting lower sales in August and 15 per cent in July. Expected sales for October show a balance of minus 4 per cent.

Nigel Whitaker, chairman of the CBI distributive trades panel, said better-than-expected sales in September were good news, but that retailers fear October will see the gains reversed. "We are living in a very uncertain economic climate and it is difficult for retailers to judge which way things will move in the months ahead," he said.

Clothing and shoe shops fared best in September, with sales up on last year. Grocers saw flat sales for the third month running, while chemists, off-licences and shops selling electrical and house-

hold goods sold less. Government figures are unlikely to confirm any recent upturn.

City forecasts centre on retail sales figures, due on Wednesday, showing a fall of 0.3 per cent between August and September, but confirming modest year-on-year growth. September money supply data on Tuesday are likely to underline the caution likely to be displayed by consumers and companies, while trade figures on Thursday will show the deficit stuck at more than £1 billion.

Mr Whitaker said wholesalers reported a year-on-year rise in volumes last month, but they remained "poor for the time of year". After a modest improvement in August, motor sales fell back below last year's levels in September. October is also expected to be down year-on-year. Spares and accessories sales continued to show a year-on-year growth.

The pound is set to come under renewed pressure this week, after the full-point cut in base rates to 8 per cent last Friday, a move widely seen as more political than economic.

Neil MacKinnon, chief economist at Citibank said the rate cut was not enough to get the economy growing, but left the pound "very soggy". Sterling ended last week at DM2.4480. Currency analysts see it easily being pushed back to its record low of DM2.3700.

David Kern, chief economist at National Westminster Bank, said the greatest risk in the immediate future was renewed economic deterioration. He said the correct policy would be gradual, not too precipitate, interest rate cuts.

The drama that brought about the collapse of the pound caused business confidence to nose-dive among small and medium-sized independent firms. The survey's "enterprise barometer" slumped from plus 57 in the second quarter to minus 4 at the end of the third quarter, the lowest level since spring 1991.



Marketing magic Nick Irens, left, and David Hudd hope to brew up interest on the first day of trade in Vardon

## Witching hour for Vardon

By PHILIP PANGALOS

DAVID Hudd and Nick Irens, the chairman and chief executive of Vardon, are hoping to bewitch the market today, the first day of trading in the shares of their leisure group, which owns the London and York Dungs. Vardon bought the £5.6 million from Kunkin, where Mr Hudd was formerly a director, while Mr Irens is a former finance director of First Leisure. The group bought Sea Life Centres for £9.9 million in cash and shares last month. To help fund the acquisition, £9.1 million was raised through a shares placing. At the placing price of 45p, today's listing of 49.1 million shares will capitalise Vardon at about £2.1 billion.

The company has forecast pre-tax profits of £2.3 million for the year to end-December, giving earnings of 4p a share. A final dividend of 0.5p has also been promised.

## Coming soon, the \$1 bn man

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

AN option deal signed this year could, at least in theory, make Leon Hirsch America's first \$1 billion a year executive in the year 2012. Mr Hirsch, chief executive of US Surgical, is 65 and shares in the medical group would have to multiply exponentially in price, but it could happen.

Mr Hirsch already ranked as the third highest paid executive in America in 1991, with \$23 million. The family budget was boosted by the \$22 million paid to his wife, a vice-president of the corporation. He is, in any case, likely to collect \$167 million for options worth \$40 million at the time they were granted.

The pay package places him among the best paid executives this year, with Roberto Goizueta, of Coca-Cola, whose share options have been valued at \$86 million.

Without naming names, Richard Breiden, chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission, cited a \$1 billion example as the kind of boardroom excess that prompted the sweeping changes in

shareholder power the SEC has just approved.

American shareholders will no longer need a law degree and a powerful spy-glass to unearth the true scale of multi-million dollar executive pay packets from the fine print of official documents, which are traditionally written in a language popular only in court. Corporations will now have to simplify the various elements of corporate pay, assign a value to share options and be required to compare their pay packets with the performance of their own shares, a broad base index of other stocks and a narrow index of their peer group in at-a-glance charts.

Shareholders will also have the right to band together to oppose board decisions and, for the first time, be able to vote against the appointment of individual directors. Until now, their only sanction against an erring chief executive was to attempt to dismiss the whole board.

Shareholder groups have applauded the changes as a milestone in the shareholder

rights movement. But the Business Roundtable, the chief executives club, has condemned parts of the plan as a potential abuse of power.

Controversy over large pay packages has been raging for more than three years as details of precisely what the boss takes home have been boded. Share options have been the most controversial.

Often awarded for free or at a very low price, they can sometimes boost executive pay irrespective of the corporation's performance. The highest paid executive last year was Tony O'Reilly, of Heinz, whose share options boosted his total pay to \$75 million while profits disappointed.

## EC in talks over aid to poorer members

FROM TOM WALKER IN BRUSSELS

EUROPEAN Community finance ministers will meet in Luxembourg today under the chairmanship of Norman Lamont to discuss plans by Jacques Delors, the commission president, to divert huge amounts of EC cash to poorer Community countries to help them catch up with their richer neighbours.

The so-called Delors Two budget proposals are deeply resented by the British government, even though the combination of recession and devaluation could soon qualify Britain for assistance as a "poor" nation.

The government wants any increases in the EC budget kept to its present limit of 1.2 per cent of gross domestic product for member states.

Sir John Cope, paymaster general, will tell his colleagues that the government believes a special fund for the Community's poorer nations can be set up without increasing spending. M Delors wants spending increased to about 1.37 per cent of GDP, which would help swell the EC budget from \$46 billion to \$61 billion.

The fund is intended to help Spain, Portugal, Greece and Ireland, paying for infrastructure projects to enable them to compete more fairly with richer parts of the Community.

Under terms in the Maastricht treaty, countries receiving money from the "cohesion" fund will have to show that their convergence programmes for monetary union are working. They would also have to prove their average income per capita is less than 90 per cent of the EC average.

Latest commission figures show Britain's per capita income average at about 94.5 per cent of the EC average, with an annual decline of about 1.2 per cent. That was before devaluation, which, at present exchange rates, could make Britain immediately eligible if the measure was taken only on latest figures.

## Men from Del Monte say yes to £360m sale

By OUR CITY STAFF

DEL Monte Foods International, the canned pineapple and fruit juice processor, is being sold to Royal Foods of South Africa for £360 million. The deal will net £4 million for the four directors who led a management buyout from Del Monte Corporation of America just over two years ago.

Leon Allen, chairman and chief executive of DMFI, was one of 100 Del Monte employees who subscribed for 10 per cent of the equity in the £229 million leveraged buyout led by Charterhouse Bank in May 1990. The value of the stake has soared from £1 million to £16 million. Shareholders have made a return of

35 per cent per annum on their investment. DMFI has no connection with Polly Peck International, the collapsed fresh fruit, electronics and hotel group. Del Monte was split in two after R J R Nabisco was bought out by K K R in 1989, with PPI buying the fresh fruit side and DMFI the processed food operation, going to Merrill Lynch. In August, administrators to PPI announced the sale of the fresh produce operation to an investment group for £260 million.

Anglo American, the conglomerate, is providing most of the financing for the deal and will take a substantial stake in Royal Foods.

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## MGN close to sale in Canada

By JON ASHWORTH

MIRROR Group Newspapers has reached tentative agreement on the sale of part of its stake in Donohue, the loss-making Canadian forest products subsidiary, in a complex deal likely to be worth about £30 million.

The disposal, which is dependent on the success of a proposed share issue, would help MGN - which bought an interest in Donohue before its flotation - reduce borrowings that stood at £423 million at the end of June. The company has been struggling to regain market confidence since its shares were relisted in July.

The stake in Donohue re-

sulted in losses to MGN of £2.3 million in the first half of the year. MGN announced in Canada that it has reached agreement on a series of transactions which, if completed, will result in MGN disposing of part of its interest.

MGN has a 49 per cent shareholding in Mirror, a private Canadian holding company that owns 53.8 per cent of Donohue. The majority interest in Mirror is held by Quebecor, a Canadian printing and publishing company in which MGN formerly held an interest. This structure makes MGN's interest in Donohue highly illiquid.

The proposed transactions,

which would include a public issue in Canada of Donohue shares, would result in the disposal of part of MGN's interest. Much of MGN's remaining interest would then be held directly in Donohue shares, which could eventually be sold, subject to certain restrictions.

MGN has been trying to sell its holdings in Donohue for some time. The company's effective interest is 26.4 per cent. Quebecor will retain effective voting control.

The Donohue stake was carried at £38.5 million in the MGN accounts to end-June. The offer is expected to be completed next month.

## New Lloyd's group covers exotic crops

## Anything on legs, except yaks

By JONATHAN PRYNN, INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

MONGOLIAN yaks may not have the same glamour appeal as Betty Grable's legs, but when unusual insurance risks need to be underwritten, be they two or four-legged, Lloyd's is still the first port of call, despite its recent well-catalogued problems.

Lloyd's great historical strength has been its flexibility and underwriting ingenuity when faced with new or one-off types of risk. One area of innovation highlighted by the recent Hawaii hurricane was cover for high-value crops. A large component of the overall loss was the destruction of orchid and macadamia nut crops in the islands, partly insured at Lloyd's.

Lloyd's has always been a leading underwriter of large-scale crop failure through hail and fire but has now moved into the more exotic world of specialist agricultural risks. A

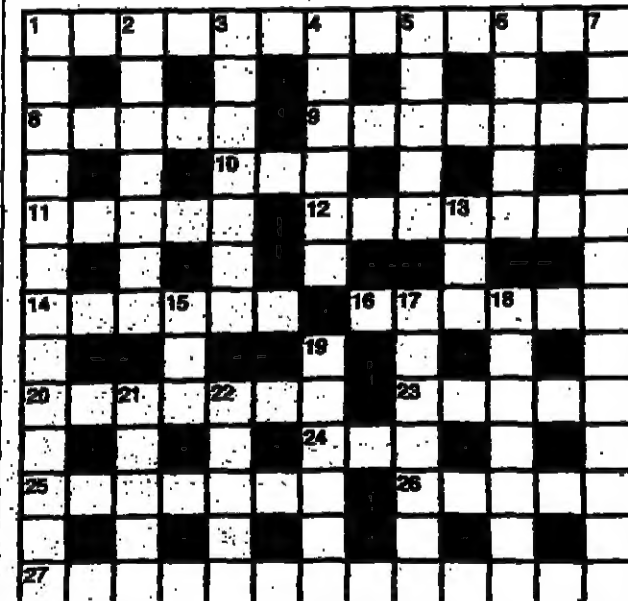
new consortium of 40 Lloyd's syndicates led by Harvey Bowring Syndicate 362 is offering up to \$10 million of cover for farmers and companies that depend on their produce. The consortium has already generated \$9 million of income since its launch in April. Worldwide agricultural and forestry premiums are estimated at \$2 billion, half generated in America.

Virtually all things bright, beautiful and valuable can be insured by the consortium and some of the risks it has been offered must rate among the most unusual to have been shown to Lloyd's. A group of Canadian farmers, for example, is looking for protection for their ginseng crop against frost and floods. Other exotics insured include cactylus trees in South Africa and Newcastle Blue Mountain Coffee in Jamaica.

Fauna as well as flora can be accommodated, and policies covering bees and silk-worms have been written. Sadly, the somewhat harder yaks remain uninsured despite the broker's attempts to place the business. But even the consortium will not touch some crops, aquaculture for example, such as salmon or oyster farming.

The bulk of the consortium's business, however, is more mainstream. Wine-crops, peanuts and sugar-beet are typical of the crops insured. According to Julian Roberts, a managing director of Agricultural Risk Management which advises the consortium's underwriters, Lloyd's is better placed to underwrite agricultural risks than many other new and unusual types of business because of the amount of historical data available.

## CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 2922



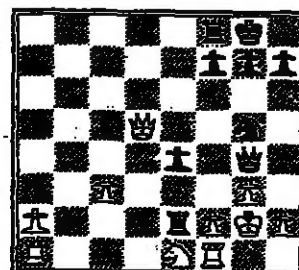
- ACROSS:  
1 Seized by kidnappers (4,3,6)  
8 Sarcasm (5)  
9 Lawn hoops game (7)  
10 Irritate (2)  
11 Bell noise (5)  
12 Go faster (7)  
14 Air (6)  
16 From orange, lemon (6)  
20 In actuality (2,5)  
23 Light scarf (5)  
24 Honey insect (3)  
25 Preliminary (7)  
26 Stic (5)  
27 Sweets (13)
- DOWN:  
1 Health warrior (13)  
2 Sleep song (7)  
3 Tiredness (7)  
4 Estimate (6)  
5 Approximately (5)  
6 Steam bath (5)  
7 Colonists land of origin (6,7)  
13 Favourite (3)  
15 W India resort (3)  
17 Hell (7)  
18 Hermit (7)  
19 Mixed assortment (3,3)  
21 Pretend (5)  
22 Plaisley baron (5)

SOLUTIONS TO NO 2921:  
ACROSS: 1 Producer 5 Wash 9 Scheme 10 Equal 11 Crux 12 Aquavit 14 On side 16 Quorum 19 Columbia 21 Hike 24 Race 25 Condense 26 Rite 27 Sussage  
DOWN: 1 Push 2 Other 3 Unbanned 4 Enigma 6 Aquiver 7 Half time 8 Beau 13 Sorcerer 15 Solicit 17 Unbungee 18 Lancer 20 Mark 22 Krona 23 Here

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

This position is from the game Forster - Schwartzman, Marmala 1991. Black is a pawn down, but this is hardly a consideration when his pieces are swarming around the white king. How did he crash through?

Solution below.



2... Kxh1 where 2... Nf3 follows with a swift mate.

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